

The Oakton Faculty Vision

Oakton Community College is dedicated first to “excellence in teaching and learning.” The Oakton faculty recognize that Oakton is a teaching college. We have established and will preserve a tradition of academic excellence in an open admissions environment. We commit ourselves to this mission and to creating the conditions that make such teaching possible.

We commit ourselves to the practices and values that allow us to learn from our students as we teach:

- We promote our students’ critical literacy, which includes scientific inquiry, critical thinking, critical reading, classroom discussion, and writing across the curriculum.
- We support our students’ well being by choosing fair and compassionate teaching practices.
- We value diversity and multiculturalism.
- We value and support our students with disabilities.
- We value equally the whole range of backgrounds and educational goals that our students bring.
- Our mission requires small classes, not large lecture halls.

We make collective decisions that support our mission and our fellows:

- We are one faculty. We support fair and equitable treatment of all faculty regardless of position.
- We recognize that developmental, transfer, and career education are all essential to achieving our mission.
- We work with the college administration to create a college environment that encourages and supports academic freedom, risk-taking, innovation, research, and continuing professional development.
- We stay current in educational innovations in our disciplines.
- We help each other to be excellent teachers by making our teaching public. We recognize the value of visiting each other’s classes, participating in semester long seminars which renew us, and creating learning communities together.
- We create productive relationships with each other: we engage in fair and effective conflict resolution; we include different points of view in all decisions; we address problems directly.
- We commit ourselves to shared governance with the administration and to mutual gains or win-win negotiations.

We recognize that our work is important to our communities:

- We acknowledge that a commitment to social justice is fundamental to every aspect of the college, beginning with open access and present in all the services provided by the college. We promote social justice through our classroom commitment to critical literacy. In addition, we commit ourselves to the ideal of increasing social justice in the world and especially in our local community.
- We engage in ethical reflection concerning our classroom practices and our relationships with students, our peers, the college staff, the college administration and board of trustees, and the community.