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CAST Dean’s Staff

Jeffrey A. Wood • interim dean
Deborah B. Gentry • associate dean
Alan C. Lacy • interim associate dean
Dorothy Witte • director of development
A College of Applied Science and Technology planning committee was formed to create a strategic plan. Faculty members from every department and school in the college were selected to represent their constituency in crafting a plan that had a line of sight to the University's *Educating Illinois* and to each individual unit. The document that emerged was the result of a yearlong effort to re-write the College vision and mission statements. From these, goals became evident and subsequently, strategies and action items were identified. The College Strategic Plan was not designed to be static; rather, similar to the dynamic disciplines within the college, the plan will be a work in progress requiring continuous improvement and constant change.

The entire faculty and staff from the college were invited to participate in the planning process. Many responded with suggestions concerning a vision, mission, or goals that would adequately reflect the definition and direction of the college. Special commendations are due to members of the Strategic Issues and Planning Committee of the College of Applied Science and Technology Council. Under their direction, a comprehensive plan was drafted and vetted through the College for subsequent approval by the CAST Council on May 9, 2008.

This strategic plan will provide the college with direction and focus as we move forward. The college now has a clearly delineated plan that will assist all units in identifying and planning programs, curricula, and their own unique identity. The plan will also provide clear illumination for the purpose of defining the college to internal and external key stakeholders with an interest in higher education.

On behalf of the College of Applied Science and Technology, I am pleased to present this remarkable effort by a very talented group of individuals.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Wood
Professor and Interim Dean
CAST

• provides premier comprehensive undergraduate programs;

• provides graduate education programs that have state, national, and international reputations for excellence;

• maintains state, national, and international recognition for quality research and scholarship;

• provides outreach initiatives that enhance the public and private sectors;

• provides state-of-the-art technology and infrastructure that is sensitive to a healthy, safe, and environmentally sustainable campus; and,

• attracts, develops, and maintains meaningful relationships with internal and external constituencies.
The college

A common theme included in all academic programs in the College of Applied Science and Technology (CAST) is a broad liberal arts education interwoven with a dynamic curriculum. This pervasive theme prepares graduates to leave the University and successfully enter their chosen careers representing a wide variety of opportunities. Graduates of CAST are prepared for professional and technical positions in education, government, business, and industry. Dedicated faculty members and full-time academic advisors guide students’ personal and academic development.

CAST includes academic units in agriculture, criminal justice sciences, family and consumer sciences, health sciences, information technology, kinesiology and recreation, military science, and technology. With this diverse array of academic units, CAST is able to offer over thirty areas of study at the undergraduate level ranging from Horticulture to Computer Science. Included in these academic areas are 17 programs with national accreditations by professional organizations. Graduate programs leading to a master’s degree are also offered in Agriculture, Criminal Justice Sciences, Family and Consumer Sciences, Information Technology, Kinesiology and Recreation, and Technology.

CAST offers a technology-rich environment with real-world experiences and hands-on learning. In most majors, students are required to complete a culminating professional experience (internship or student teaching) in approved site-based agencies or schools. When students leave here, there are few surprises and they are ready to become productive members in the workforce. They know what to expect and what is expected of them.

As a result, 98 percent of our graduates are employed in a field related to their major within six months of graduation. A major factor in this success rate is the curriculum that is constantly monitored and modified to meet the ever-changing demands of the society, education, and industry. Another major factor is that this curriculum is developed and delivered by faculty who are experts in their fields.
Vision
The College of Applied Science and Technology graduates individuals skilled in critical thinking with a life-long passion for learning and a strong commitment to civic engagement.

Mission
The College of Applied Science and Technology cultivates the intellectual and personal growth of individuals through premier teaching, research, and outreach programs. We emphasize innovative relationships between theory and practice in order to graduate technologically skilled life-long learners who can contribute effectively to their profession and society.

Goals, strategies, and actions

1. CAST provides premiere comprehensive undergraduate programs.

   **Strategy 1A:** Offer each student opportunities for experiential learning, including but not limited to student research, service learning, civic engagement, honors programs, volunteering, internships, study abroad, and community outreach activities.

      **Action 1Aa:** Expand international faculty and student exchanges to enhance globalization of curriculum.

   **Strategy 1B:** Promote diverse educational opportunities as a means of broadening life experience and cross-cultural understanding for students and faculty.

      **Action 1Ba:** Establish international/global educational programs in appropriate disciplines.

      **Action 1Bb:** Attract underrepresented faculty throughout the college.

      **Action 1Bc:** Increase enrollment and improve retention and graduation rates of underrepresented students.

   **Strategy 1C:** Increase tenure-track, non-tenure track, and/or AP personnel, as necessary, to accommodate quality teaching and research.

   **Strategy 1D:** Utilize accreditations, where appropriate, to promote quality and rigor in undergraduate programs.

   **Strategy 1E:** Continue to emphasize career placement opportunities for all students.
Strategy 1F: Pursue alternate delivery of courses to meet global changes and market conditions.

Action 1Fa: Expand availability of distance education courses to allow for more diverse demographics.

Action 1Fb: Create on-line degree program in disciplines with demonstrated high occupational demand.

Strategy 1G: Continue and expand participation in general education programs through curricula offerings.

Strategy 1H: Continue to update ASPT policies to reward activities that promote premiere undergraduate education experience.

Action 1Ha: Increase ASPT recognition for mentoring undergraduate students.

Action 1Hb: Promote a holistic evaluation of teaching.

Action 1Hc: Support opportunities for faculty to engage in “scholarship of teaching and learning” projects.

Strategy 1I: Increase university contribution to the support of mandated student teacher and intern supervision.

2. CAST provides graduate education programs that have state, national, and international reputations for excellence.

Strategy 2A: Pursue doctoral degrees building on strengths of selected M.S./B.S. programs.

Strategy 2B: Pursue alternate delivery of courses to meet global changes and market conditions.

Action 2Ba: Expand availability of distance education courses to allow for more diverse demographics.

Action 2Bb: Create on-line degree program in discipline with demonstrated high occupational demand.

Strategy 2C: Create programs of distinction in selected areas of strength.

Strategy 2D: Create “centers that matter” to enhance opportunities for faculty, students, and private sector collaboration.

Strategy 2E: Provide resources to recruit high quality grad students.

Action 2Ea: Increase number of available teaching assistantships for graduate students.

Action 2Eb: Enhance financial allocation to graduate assistantships to maintain a competitive position within Illinois State and with other universities.

Strategy 2F: Continue to update ASPT policies to reward activities that promote premiere graduate education experience.

Action 2Fa: Increase ASPT recognition for mentoring graduate students.

Action 2Fb: Promote a holistic evaluation of teaching.

Strategy 2G: Provide resources to attract and maintain graduate faculty.
3. CAST maintains state, national, and international recognition for quality research and scholarship.

**Strategy 3A:** Strengthen available resources for scholarship, research, sabbatical leaves, grant writing, professional activities, and other faculty development opportunities.

- **Action 3Aa:** Provide support and encourage sabbatical leaves for post-tenure faculty.
- **Action 3Ab:** Create mini-sabbaticals for tenure-track faculty.
- **Action 3Ac:** Enhance travel funds for faculty and students.
- **Action 3Ad:** Expand URG program to provide increased support for additional faculty.
- **Action 3Ae:** Establish/Enhance funds for college-level competitive grants and release time for external grant acquisition.
- **Action 3Af:** Continue to provide research training opportunities for faculty members, such as academic writing circles, grant-writing workshops, and summer funding opportunities.

**Strategy 3B:** Provide incentives and ongoing support for interdisciplinary/interuniversity research projects.

**Strategy 3C:** Increase collaboration with laboratory schools as appropriate.

**Strategy 3D:** Reward faculty through ASPT process for quality research and scholarship.

- **Action 3Da:** Recognize faculty for securing funding for GAs.
- **Action 3Db:** Recognize faculty for participation in national/international conferences/journals as officers, member of editorial team, etc.
- **Action 3Dc:** Recognize faculty for enhancing graduate student participation in research dissemination.
- **Action 3Dd:** Recognize faculty for disseminating research through peer-reviewed manuscripts and popular press publications.
4. CAST provides outreach initiatives that enhance the public and private sectors.

**Strategy 4A:** Recognize and reward students, faculty, and staff involved in strategic collaborations and targeted community outreach.

**Strategy 4B:** Establish and enhance collaborations with the private sector, schools, community, government, and non-government organizations.

- **Action 4Ba:** Continue development of student advisory board.
- **Action 4Bb:** Establish a college advisory board to include political, business, and educational members.
- **Action 4Bc:** Establish an emeritus faculty and administrator advisory board.

**Strategy 4C:** Encourage and recognize civic engagement.

- **Action 4Ca:** Support collaboration and faculty involvement with public entities to provide workshops and other experiences (e.g., Children’s Discovery Museum, STEM PenPals).

**Strategy 4D:** Establish cooperative partnerships with professional and community organizations to discuss, interpret, and apply knowledge to public policies and professional practice.

**Strategy 4E:** Continue sponsorship of Science and Technology Week and CAST in Focus and continue to seek extramural sponsorship.

**Strategy 4F:** Explore expansion of outreach activities that couple with teaching and scholarship.

**Strategy 4G:** Encourage dissemination of knowledge through popular press.

- **Action 4Ga:** Enhance College website and create official brand mark.

5. CAST provides state-of-the-art technology and infrastructure that is sensitive to a healthy, safe, and environmentally sustainable campus.

**Strategy 5A:** Promote student technology fluency, as well as relevant faculty and staff development, in the use of technology for teaching and scholarship.

**Strategy 5B:** Establish up-to-date technology and infrastructure to support teaching and research activities.

- **Action 5Ba:** Establish Internet connectivity throughout CAST teaching and research facilities.
- **Action 5Bb:** Facilitate the appropriate use of internet-based and other innovative delivery methods of instruction.
- **Action 5Bc:** Continue to offer development workshops for state-of-the-art topics.
- **Action 5Bd:** Allocate technology funds to support equipment and other technology-related purchase and maintenance.
- **Action 5Be:** Continue to maintain and support University Farms.

**Strategy 5C:** Create an Executive Technology Committee (ETC) to recommend technology-related policies and procedures.

- **Action 5Ca:** Develop guidelines to protect intellectual properties.
**Strategy 5D:** Collaborate with university technology units (e.g., CTLT) to more efficiently use CAST resources.

**Strategy 5E:** Provide funding for permanent line support staff.
- **Action 5Ea:** Hire sufficient support staff for teaching and research laboratories.
- **Action 5Eb:** Hire sufficient support staff to maintain CAST technology facilities and infrastructure.

6. **CAST attracts, develops, and maintains meaningful relationships with internal and external constituencies.**

**Strategy 6A:** Increase private support and research funding to supplement state funding and tuition, in order to guarantee an operating budget that supports academic excellence.
- **Action 6Aa:** Continue to develop Excellence Fund (Annual Fund).
- **Action 6Ab:** Continue to re-connect with CAST annuitants.
- **Action 6Ac:** Continue to promote data driven alumni development.
- **Action 6Ad:** Identify and target CAST alumni populations around the region and country with friend-raising efforts.
- **Action 6Ae:** Increase project specific fund-raising efforts to enhance teaching, research, and service.

**Strategy 6B:** Develop and implement an effective, efficient, integrated, comprehensive College marketing plan.
- **Action 6Ba:** Continue development activities for Science and Technology Week, CAST in Focus, events in Chicago, and trustee visits.

**Strategy 6C:** Establish positive reputation with the central administration.

**Strategy 6D:** Continue to excel in all professional areas currently related to internal support.

**Strategy 6E:** Excel in outreach and philanthropy efforts that will establish a strong reputation for CAST in the community.

**Strategy 6F:** Encourage efforts to increase local, state, federal support of the College.

**Strategy 6G:** Expand administrative training opportunities such as mentoring, fellowships, internships, and mini-sabbaticals.

*(Plan adopted by CAST Council on May 9, 2008)*