

Southern 2015-2025

Southern Connecticut State University has a strong past and a bright future. As Southern embarks on a new era of excellence, it continues its commitment to intellectual rigor and risk, creativity and innovation, technology for quality and efficiency, and a climate of civility, respect, and support.

The next 10 years will be a time of exceptional growth and development – a time during which Southern pledges the following:

- Southern will EXCEL by delivering exemplary, transformative, and accessible education in a student-centered environment.
- Southern will INNOVATE by developing and sustaining a university-wide climate and infrastructure that nurtures creativity and innovation.
- Southern will have an IMPACT by engaging with local and global communities through exemplary leadership and service to promote community well-being, economic growth, and social justice.
- Southern will EMPOWER by providing exemplary, ethical stewardship of human, financial, technological and physical resources.

In Strategic Plan 2015-2025, we share our aspirations with the very clear understanding that it is Southern's people who make the difference. Together, Southern's outstanding faculty, staff, students, and partners will participate in research, teaching and learning, and local and global community activity so that, with their knowledge and skills, they leave a transformative legacy to those with whom they engage.

Goal 1 – Excel

Deliver exemplary, transformative, and accessible education in a student-centered environment.

Southern will enhance its academic culture and build upon its strong foundation in the liberal arts, professional disciplines, and deep commitment to social justice, by fostering these within a student-centered environment extending well beyond the classroom. Southern encourages creative and effective pedagogy and embraces technological innovations to support student success. We pair talented and focused students with engaged and collaborative faculty and staff. Southern inspires intellectual, personal, and professional growth and provides the experiences necessary to become tomorrow's leaders.

Objectives

- a. Become a recognized leader for student-centered learning and student success.
- b. Attract, retain, support, and recognize the highest quality teacher-scholars and staff who demonstrate an exemplary commitment to student-centeredness.

- c. Attract high achieving students who are academically prepared for college, while retaining the university's mission of educational access.
- d. Foster university-wide inclusivity, and enable students to live fully engaged in an increasingly global and diverse society.
- e. Increase interdisciplinary and interdepartmental collaboration across the University.
- f. Strategically review, strengthen, and enhance academic offerings.

Goal 2 – Innovate

Develop and sustain a university-wide climate and infrastructure that nurtures research, scholarship, creativity and innovation.

Southern will become known as an institution that encourages, supports and celebrates innovative research, scholarship, creative activity and entrepreneurial initiatives. We will clear the obstacles that block the pursuit of creativity and innovation through the creation of a campus infrastructure that supports and encourages these activities across the University. By actively fostering relationships throughout the campus and with private organizations, government agencies and other institutions, Southern will create an environment in which creative ideas, scholarly pursuits and entrepreneurial endeavors are nurtured and applauded. Southern will be known as an institution in which creative thinking is always met with “why not”?

Objectives

- a. Create an umbrella structure at the university that facilitates and supports all types of research, scholarship, creative activity and innovation.
- b. Identify and foster opportunities for partnerships with external entities.
- c. Become a recognized leader in best practices relative to research, scholarship, creative activity and innovation.
- d. Develop recognition and reward structures to sustain a climate of creativity and innovation.
- e. Support initiatives that foster hubs of intellectual activity and interdisciplinary/interdepartmental collaborations.
- f. Develop processes that allow and effectuate the institutionalization of successful creative and entrepreneurial endeavors.

Goal 3 – Impact

Engage with local and global communities through exemplary leadership and service to promote community well-being, economic growth, and social justice.

Southern will make meaningful and measurable differences in regional, state, national, and international communities through innovative partnerships, programs, and experiences. A strong and continued commitment to social justice and service for the public good remains a top priority. Honoring its mission as a public university, Southern is committed to enhancing the educational, political, environmental, economic, and health needs in the State of Connecticut and beyond.

Objectives

- a. Become a recognized leader for best practices in supporting a culture of and infrastructure for local and global community engagement.
- b. Develop and implement measures to determine the scope and effectiveness of SCSU's civic engagement to inform the development of future initiatives.
- c. Develop innovative and comprehensive programs to cultivate a strong transition from student to alumnus(a) and create a culture of engagement alumni.
- d. Define, assess, and promote SCSU's impact on the economy of the State of Connecticut.
- e. Identify and assess the impact of SCSU's service activities on members of the campus community.
- f. Leverage athletics for increased visibility, attention, and engagement with alumni, the university and regional communities.

Goal 4 – Empower

Provide exemplary, ethical stewardship of human, financial, technological and physical capital.

Southern will build on its success and optimize its strong and diverse human, physical, technical, and financial networks and resources. Southern's commitment to its people, campus climate, processes, and products combine to make an exceptional learning and work environment. We seek to honor and cultivate the key values of civility, respect, excellence, efficiency, collaboration, innovation, balance, and sustainability.

Objectives

- a. Foster a culture that encourages faculty, staff, and student success and enables the university to attract and retain diverse talent on a national scale.

- b. Continue to position the university as leader and nationally recognized expert in sustainability.
- c. Improve the physical environment and infrastructure of the University.
- d. Provide a world-class digital experience for every member of the campus community.
- e. Improve university-wide processes to maximize effectiveness and efficiency.
- f. Build a climate and infrastructure that supports and increases the University's financial well-being.

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