



Where Are We Going? *A Vision For Southern*

President Joe Bertolino | September 18, 2018

These are exciting times for Southern Connecticut State University.

Celebrating its 125th anniversary, the University is raising its profile and redefining itself. By doing so, the University is positioning itself to become the regional higher education institution of choice for students and community partners.

We will dedicate ourselves to students, providing the mentoring and guidance to complement exemplary teaching and research, and ensure that a Southern degree is an attainable goal. **The success of our students is our success!**

We will become the Social Justice University of the State of Connecticut.

Southern can take this vital step by drawing on the talents of our community, forming strong coalitions with on- and off-campus partners, and focusing on both access and excellence.

We will form closer ties with our feeder community colleges, providing a smoother transition for transfer students and better preparation before they come to Southern.

We will collaborate with area school systems to help close the achievement gap and we will work to diversify our revenue sources.

We will develop new enterprise centers for professional studies and continuing education, and reinvigorate our graduate programs to meet the needs of the economy and the schedules of today's working professionals.

We will find new opportunities and initiatives to grow and support our faculty and student scholarship and creative activities.

We will regain the foothold as the CSCU's largest and highest quality school of graduate studies.

And, we will expand Southern's reach as a regional university, increasing our presence both physically and visibly in the Greater New Haven region and throughout the southern part of the state.





As we move forward, we will do all this while adhering to the following foundational principles/values:

Quality: a commitment to student learning and academic excellence, drawing on exemplary teaching, innovative research, creative activity, and entrepreneurial initiatives

Access: a commitment to ensuring that students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to pursue a college degree, on a path that is clearly defined and obstacle-free

Responsiveness: a commitment to developing programs and providing the knowledge and skills that will give our graduates a practical and intellectual toolkit for success in Connecticut's new economy

Location: a commitment to empowerment and engagement of the off-campus community, drawing on the challenges and opportunities of an urban setting and Connecticut's most culturally vibrant city

Social Justice/Diversity: a commitment to social justice, embracing diversity and fostering inclusivity to enable faculty, staff, and students to learn and work in a welcoming and supportive environment

Affordability: a commitment to increasing resources of private support, thereby reducing the number of students unable to complete their education due to a lack of financial resources.

