

APPENDIX C
STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional development is the progression of administrators, faculty, and staff toward excellence in their roles at Stark State College of Technology and the opportunity to maintain that high level of excellence. The goal of professional development is to encourage and provide opportunities for individuals to develop professionally and to create within the College a team of excellent professionals at every level. Because Stark State's mission is to provide excellent educational opportunities and services for its students and to the community, each administrator, faculty, and staff member has a responsibility to develop and implement an ongoing formal or informal program of professional and career development.

This responsibility is especially important at a technical college which deals with a tremendous amount of new information and a constantly changing environment. This responsibility is shared college-wide. Formal professional development programs are more specifically directed toward development of technical expertise and/or the building of leadership, management and interpersonal skills. These programs can be offered on or off campus. The informal professional development programs are those which involve staying current outside of the classroom and the position responsibility and include self-directed study and broadening of perspective through networking, mentoring and personal observation and reflection.

Fortunately, because of the broad range of technical and interpersonal expertise available at the College, there are nearly limitless opportunities for professional development, both formal and informal, for College personnel. The College strongly advocates that professional development opportunities be supported by all supervisory personnel. The College's advocacy is demonstrated by its commitment to nurturing informal professional development and to providing regularly scheduled programs so that individuals may stay technically current and the College may continue to provide excellence in education and services to our students and community.

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