



Stark State
COLLEGE

STRATEGIC PLAN

2 0 2 6 - 2 8



about studying creativity?

conceptions

to creativity

ance group creativity

voke group genius

activity

**STUDENT-CENTERED
FUTURE-FOCUSED**





MISSION AND VISION

MISSION

Stark State College positively influences the life of each student and our communities by providing access to high-quality, affordable, and in-demand education.

VISION

Stark State College aspires to be Ohio's leading community college in fostering student success and community prosperity through innovation, responsiveness, and partnerships.

Statement of Commitment

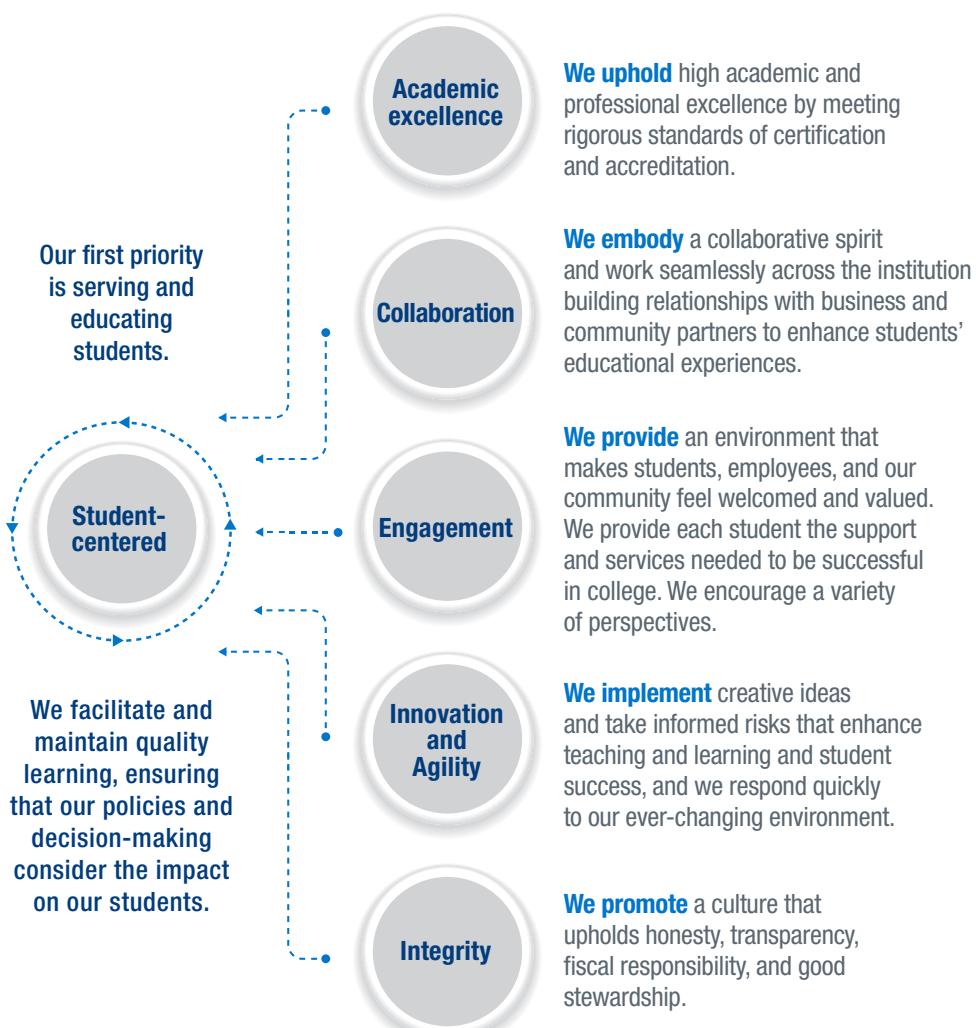
Stark State College affirms its dedication to fostering an environment that upholds the values of intellectual diversity, personal growth, and equality. This commitment is central to our mission and is reflected in the following principles.

Stark State College:

- will educate students to seek the truth through free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry.
- declares that its duty is to equip students with the opportunity to develop the intellectual skills they need to reach their own, informed conclusions.
- is committed to not requiring, favoring, disfavoring, or prohibiting speech or lawful assembly.
- is committed to creating a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the autonomy of each member, supports individual capacities for growth, and tolerates the differences in opinion that naturally occur in a public higher education community.
- will treat all faculty, staff, and students as individuals, hold them to equal standards, and provide them with equality of opportunity with regard to their race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.



VALUES





Addison Loy
dental hygiene graduate

Sheri Herbert, MAEd, RDH
associate professor
patient care services coordinator
allied dental health professions



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & GOALS

- **As Stark State College celebrates nearly 70 years** of providing high-quality, low-cost education and training to students and employers alike, we look forward to continued opportunities to serve our students and communities.
- **Our 2026-28 Strategic Plan** focuses on four strategic priorities that are the pillars of future success and ensure the College stays not only relevant, but also ahead of the curve in meeting the needs of our students, employers, and the communities we serve.
- **Each strategy and goal** in the Strategic Plan embodies the values that we believe are catalysts for the future success of our students, faculty, staff, employer partners and, community.
- **Thank you** to the 800-plus stakeholders who contributed to this plan.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY: STUDENT ACCESS

Stark State College provides open access to quality, affordable higher education.

Goal 1:

Increase the number of students seeking post-secondary education and training for careers and/or university transfer.

Goal 2:

Increase the number of K-12 districts and students participating in College Credit Plus and enrollment after high school.

Goal 3:

Help students choose and stay on the right path by providing career exploration and confirmation in onboarding and advising processes.

Goal 4:

Align course scheduling, programs, and services to student needs.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY: STUDENT SUCCESS

Stark State College supports and engages students in academic success and provides a high-quality learning environment leading to completion, university transfer, and/or career.

Goal 1:

Increase graduation/completion of training, credential, certificate or degree, and university transfer, and career success for students.

Goal 2:

Increase course completion rates through effective teaching and learning, student engagement, and comprehensive student support services.

Goal 3:

Grow federal and state grants, private giving, and endowments to support students.

Goal 4:

Ensure high-quality education through Higher Learning Commission accreditation, division- and program-level accreditation, and academic program assessments.



Dustin Mills
instructor, welding

Dominic Wyne
welding certificate graduate



STRATEGIC PRIORITY: CAREER SUCCESS & WORKFORCE

Stark State College serves student, employer and community workforce needs through innovative partnerships that provide viable pathways to in-demand careers, transfer, and career success.

Goal 1:

Increase the number of employer-led partnerships that fuel the talent pipeline, drive workforce development, and enhance student success.

Goal 2:

Help students accelerate degree/certificate completion through prior learning, military experience, and other innovative pathways.

Goal 3:

Increase apprenticeships, industrial training programs, co-ops, internships, clinicals, directed practice, practicums, service learning, and volunteer opportunities for students.

Goal 4:

Engage and advocate with employers, public policy experts, and legislators to meet current and future workforce needs.



Cheyenne Posey
culinary arts student

Second highest fifth	19	23	24	4	24	23
Middle fifth	14	17			16	16
Second lowest fifth	9	12			9	9
Lowest fifth		5			4	4



STRATEGIC PRIORITY: OUR PEOPLE

Stark State College attracts and retains a qualified and engaged workforce by providing opportunities for professional development.

Goal 1:

Promote a transparent, consistent culture of shared governance, collaboration, collegiality, and respect through our leadership principles of direction, alignment, and commitment.

Goal 2:

Provide strategic professional development to employees that ensures a continued focus on academic excellence and student success and opportunities for employees to enhance knowledge and skills.

Goal 3:

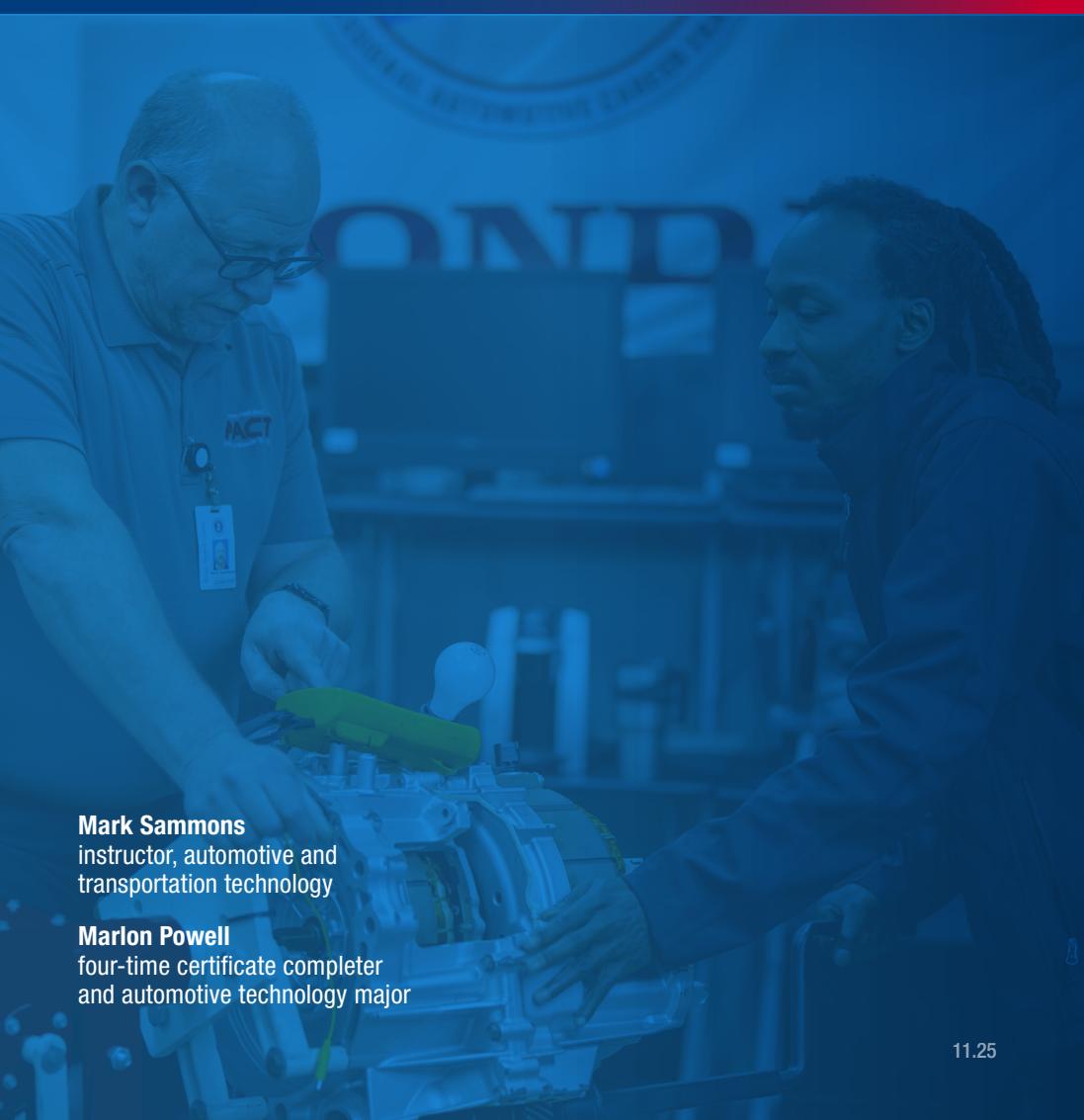
Attract, hire, and retain highly qualified employees with relevant, real-world experience to ensure excellence, using market-based compensation strategies.

Goal 4:

Integrate new technologies into the classroom and in business processes.



6200 Frank Ave NW // North Canton, Ohio 44720
330-494-6170 // starkstate.edu



Mark Sammons
instructor, automotive and
transportation technology

Marlon Powell
four-time certificate completer
and automotive technology major