

PLENARY SESSION: MOVING MEASUREMENT FROM THE CLASSROOM LEVEL TO THE INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

Interview with Dr. Patricia Skinner President, Gaston College



Thursday, July 9th, 3:30-4:30pm

LOCATION: Meyers Center Auditorium

Dr. Patricia Skinner became president of Gaston College in August of 1994. A product of the community college, Dr. Skinner began her education at Lake Michigan College and went on to earn several advanced degrees from Western Michigan University. She received her Ph.D. in higher education administration from The Ohio State University.

Dr. Skinner's career began in the classroom as an instructor, where she gained teaching experience in colleges and universities in Michigan, Massachusetts, and Ohio. Her administrative career began with her experiences in cooperative education while a faculty member, with one of the highlights of her career the seven years she spent serving in numerous roles at the Ohio Board of Regents.

Since coming to Gaston College, Dr. Skinner has focused on improving the quality of the learning environment by raising funds for new and renovated facilities, enhancing faculty and staff salaries, and obtaining grants for special initiatives. Her focus on economic and workforce development led to the development of the Bionetwork Bio-Ed Center at Gaston College. During her tenure at Gaston College, several new buildings have been completed, two new campuses have been added, and enrollment has increased significantly.

Dr. Skinner's strong commitment towards the community in which she serves was recognized in August 2005, when she was named Gaston County's Woman of the Year, and in January 2006, when she received the 2005 Athena Award from the Gaston Chamber of Commerce.

Currently, Dr. Skinner serves on the Southern Association of Community, Junior & Technical Colleges (SACJTC) Board and numerous other community Boards. She is past president of the North Carolina Association of Community College Presidents and past chair of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Advisory Board of Presidents. In October 2008, Dr. Skinner received ACCT's Southern Region CEO of the Year award.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Assessment - a process of determining the quality of a performance, work product, or skill and giving feedback that documents progress (strengths) and suggests ways to improve future performance (areas for improvement) in ways that will help the performer improve his or her future performance

Evaluation - a process for determining the quality of a performance that takes a retrospective look at a given process, program, or individual, and based upon pre-established standards, decides its utility, its value, or its applicability

Measurement - the process of monitoring and documenting a performance or a product against a scale

Quality/Excellence - a model performance or product, worthy of imitation

Criteria - clear and explicit description of a performance which allows all involved to have a mutually understood set of expectations by which performance may be measured, assessed, and/or evaluated

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- What different roles have you played in measuring success in higher education?
- What are the biggest challenges to assessment and evaluation in each role?
- Who do you see as the most important stakeholders in higher education and what measures of success are most meaningful to each stakeholder group?
- What are the challenges in reporting results of measurement to national, state, institutional, and departmental audiences?
- How can administrators create synergy between different academic units in creating effective measures for multiple stakeholder groups?
- How have institutional measures changed during your career?

AUDIENCE THOUGHTS

- What changes do you see on the horizon in the way measurement is done at the classroom level as well as the institution level?