

DALTON COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

As a two-year unit of the University System of Georgia, Dalton College serves Northwest Georgia through a broad array of associate degree and certificate programs of study and a wide variety of public service and continuing education activities. Located at the center of the greatest concentration of carpet production in the world, the College is a comprehensive institution, one of only four in the University System authorized to offer a full range of associate and certificate technical programs in addition to the traditional pre-baccalaureate curricula. Through direct and technological collaboration with neighboring technical institutes, four-year colleges, and universities on the one hand, and outreach and cooperation with local preschool, primary, and secondary systems on the other, Dalton College acts as an educational broker to meet the needs of business and industry and to provide opportunities for all persons within its service area to live self-fulfilling and productive lives.

Dalton College shares with the other associate-level institutions of the University System of Georgia the following core characteristics or purposes:

- a commitment to excellence and responsiveness within a scope of influence defined by the needs of the local area and by particularly outstanding programs and distinctive characteristics that have a magnet effect throughout the region;
- a commitment to a teaching/learning environment, both inside and outside the classroom, that sustains instructional excellence, functions to provide University System access for a diverse student body, and promotes high levels of student learning;
- a high quality general education program that supports a variety of well-chosen associate programs and prepares students for transfer to baccalaureate programs, learning support programs designed to insure access and opportunity for a diverse student body, and certificate and associate career programs that prepare students to enter the work force;
- a commitment to public service, continuing education, technical assistance, and economic development activities that address the needs, improve the quality of life, and raise the economic level within the college's scope of influence;
- a commitment to scholarship and creative work to enhance instructional effectiveness and meet local needs;
- a supportive campus climate, necessary services, and leadership and development opportunities, all to educate the whole person and meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff;
- cultural, ethnic, racial, and gender diversity in the faculty, staff, and student body, supported by practices and programs that embody the ideals of an open, democratic, and global society;

- technology to advance educational purposes, including instructional technology, student support services, and distance education; and
- collaborative relationships with other System institutions, State agencies, local schools, technical institutes, and business and industry, sharing physical, human, information, and other resources to expand and enhance programs and services available to the citizens of Georgia.

In all that it does, Dalton College strives toward the highest possible standards of quality and excellence and systematically assesses and evaluates its effectiveness. Especially in its combination of associate-level studies in the liberal arts with a large complement of career programs in health-related, business, and technical fields, the quality of its preparation of its students for work or further study, and in its role as a broad-based information resource for the people of Northwest Georgia, the College seeks to build upon its strengths and justify recognition as one of the most academically respected, student-oriented, and community-centered institutions of its kind.