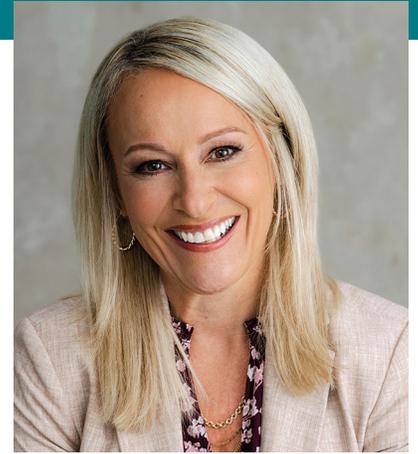


Wor-Wic Community College Building Momentum

Over the past 150 days, I have engaged in the community with genuine intention, thoughtful listening and sincere partnership. It has been valuable for me to listen to those I am leading internally and externally. Since I started as the third president of Wor-Wic Community College, I have been honored to meet people in Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties. It has been a privilege to meet so many community leaders individually, in meetings and at events. I am blessed to work every day alongside amazing faculty and staff serving our students and local communities. Wor-Wic employees embody the mission and values of our organization.



I have learned much about the Lower Eastern Shore's economy, culture and workforce needs. Interacting with students who are brilliant scholars exuding the perseverance and tenacity to achieve their goals has been humbling. Dual enrolled students, veterans, adult basic education students, skilled trades students, English language learners, students with disabilities, STEM and honors students are all striving to complete their educational goals and serve our communities.

"Building Momentum" offers a reflection of what I have learned on my listening tours, the themes emerging and how this information informs our future work. Together, we will continue to build upon the amazing history of previous leaders and community partners as well as develop new and innovative programs and services to move forward.

I am deeply grateful for input and guidance I received from the board of trustees, foundation board, legislative delegates, and Wor-Wic faculty, staff and students, as well as the external partners and employers who welcomed me with open arms to the Lower Eastern Shore. You've created opportunity to engage and connect our collective vision for our future economic development work. It has been a true blessing to be a part of the Lower Eastern Shore community. Go Fins!

Deb Casey, Ph.D.

Deb Casey, Ph.D.
President



New Motto: Students First! Excellence Always!

Our mission is grounded in empowering individuals and transforming the Lower Eastern Shore communities through delivering excellence in education and training. Wor-Wic values focus on accessible education, workforce development and community engagement, which serve as a catalyst for positive change in the lives of our local citizens.

During the past 150 days, I heard repeatedly how Wor-Wic serves our communities by providing academic and personal growth support services preparing students for a rapidly evolving workforce. As a rural community college, we are focused on inclusive practices, educational attainment and workforce development. We are committed to innovative business and industry partnerships, four-year universities transfer, school district career pathways, and community-based supports contributing to the socioeconomic development and vitality of the region.

Over the past 150 days, I also learned everything we do at the college is:

Values Centered

Our core values are centered on accessibility, community, diversity, learning, innovation, excellence and integrity. These values guide decisions we make and bring the community together building trust, respect, and confidence to those we serve.

Students First

"Students First!" emphasizes prioritizing the needs, well-being and success of our students above all else. Decisions are made through a "students first" lens focused on the individual success of each student and their goals.

Excellence Driven

"Excellence Always!" reflects the high standard of performance and achievement from both employees and students. Our drive is to be a catalyst for change on the Lower Eastern Shore. Our partnerships create more job opportunities for the 90% of our students who stay local. These partnerships move people from economic fragility to economic mobility through education and skilled-training for in-demand, well-paying jobs. Our purpose is focused on the upward trajectory of economic growth partnering with business and industry to design specific programs and curricula for the skilled workforce needed between the bay and the ocean.

AUG. 16

STEM
honors student
presentation

AUG. 18



Nursing
Pinning
Ceremony

AUG. 29

Salisbury Chamber of
Commerce meeting with
Gov. Wes Moore

Attended 13
student & employee
engagement events



150 Days of Listening, Learning and Being Engaged

AUG. 14



Took office as the third president
of Wor-Wic Community College



Fostered a sense of
spirit around the
dolphin mascot
GO FINS!

AUG. 22

Board of
trustees
retreat

SEPT. 22



All-staff
professional
development
day & state
of the college

Three themes emerged during my listening sessions over the first 150 days. These themes contribute to our collective vision of being a dynamic leader partnering with our diverse communities to develop a world-class workforce.

I. Sharing Wor-Wic's One-College Model

Communicating with clarity a one-college model clarifying how non-credit programs align with degree programs to ensure a more consistent educational experience for students and program offerings for business and industry. Our programs create stepping stones for degree and certificate attainment by embedding career readiness experiences, apprenticeships, high-quality academic transfer courses and skilled-workforce training.

“Balancing the structural framework of credit and non-credit programs is the key to fostering a dynamic educational ecosystem, where every learning avenue is acknowledged and empowered to assist in the smooth transitions between programs benefiting our students, their success, and our workforce needs.” ~ Dr. Deb Casey

II. Focus on Student Success and Belonging

Assessing our work to examine how student satisfaction and sense of belonging impacts retention and completion. Our focus on working with part-time students and what interventions they need to achieve full-time student status is critical to achieving their goals in a timely and fiscally responsible outcome. Students may enter any office or classroom—physically or virtually—and find a welcoming environment of support and resources necessary to succeed. Our work equips students with career opportunities to be successful in the workforce while creating a sense of place and connection for them to grow and learn.

“The unwavering commitment of faculty and staff to student success is the cornerstone of Wor-Wic's success illuminating the pathways toward knowledge, growth, skill-development and achievement.” ~ Dr. Deb Casey



SEPT. 26

United Way Lower Eastern Shore kickoff

SEPT. 29

Chesapeake Shipbuilding tour of the Guerrieri Technology Center (GTC)



15 tours of Guerrieri Technology Center for community partners



SEPT. 25



Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore



20 meetings with local businesses & industries

OCT. 16

Wicomico County legislative breakfast

OCT. 19

Panelist for the Transformational Community Leadership cohort



III. Strengthening our Community Value Proposition

Clarifying and communicating the return on investment of higher education is an important factor to address as greater accountability of the return on investment is expected from students, funders, employers and the community.

Creating accessible and affordable program options leading directly to job attainment fuels the economic success of our students and communities. Demonstrating Wor-Wic as an educational partner and incubator for new job training that assists people in acquiring jobs is critical to our success. Communicating the program offerings in the Guerrieri Technology Center (GTC) and enhancing the marketing of those programs, assists in developing more opportunities and partnerships with local business and industry.

Intentional partnerships with business and industry, healthcare, law enforcement, hospitality industry partners, and four-year universities significantly enhances Wor-Wic's value and contributions to the workforce and the economic vitality of the region.

"We embrace brand ambassadors, champions and employers sharing our role as an economic engine and force for change. We continue to share with prospective students and families career opportunities and possibilities and raise the understanding of career options for high-demand and high-wage jobs on the Lower Eastern Shore." ~ Dr. Deb Casey

Moving Forward

The themes emerging from the listening sessions will be used as opportunities to engage the campus and community prior to facilitating an environmental scanning process leading to Wor-Wic Community College's future Strategic Plan. Employees, students and our communities will have the opportunity to participate in brainstorming sessions and recommend new ways to advance the college's access, enrollment, programs and services. Together we will consider the themes in town halls, department meetings and community forums throughout Spring 2024. The ideas emerging from these discussions will inform the next steps for future visioning the direction of the college.

OCT. 23

Bank of Delmarva scholarship presentation

NOV. 1

Tri-County Council for Lower Shore Comprehensive Economic Development

NOV. 25

Beacon of Hope

DEC. 1

Southern Delmarva Economic Forecast & Maryland Delegation

DEC. 14

SACC Panel of Presidents



Met with more than 2,000 people

150 Days of Listening, Learning and Being Engaged

NOV. 2

Lower Shore Workforce Alliance business meeting



Met with 10 key donors and foundation partners

OCT. 26

Junior Achievement ribbon cutting ceremony

DEC. 7

Hosted the Lower Shore Delegation

DEC. 4

Middle States Commission for Higher Education conference

DEC. 8

Honors symposium

DEC. 18



Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy graduation