

2021-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN





STRATEGIC GOAL 1

Southern Union State Community College will increase attainment of student goals and meet relevant community needs by expanding innovative facilities and state-of-the-art technologies that will provide an overall quality experience in customer service, student engagement, and instructional services, establishing SUSCC as the best choice to meet the diverse needs of all stakeholders.

- Address facility needs and increase instructional on-campus classroom space on the Opelika Campus by building the Union Academic Center, renovating the Higginbotham Academic Center (HAC) and modifying the Industry Training Center.
- Develop at least one interactive, collaborative classroom on each campus that will utilize innovative facility design with multiple displays, whiteboards, and cluster-style seating to enhance student engagement and active learning for on-campus, virtual, and remote students.
- Provide an open computer lab on each campus staffed with technology experts who will provide a help-desk for students who need assistance with technology.
- Create and implement a virtual environment that can be accessed by students and employees whether on campus or off that will allow access to any software that is housed by the college.
- Ensure that the newest technology is available on portable carts, and in laboratories, and classrooms by continuously upgrading equipment using a three-year Technology Replacement Plan.
- Increase technology training and professional development requirements for all instructors which will include Quality Matters Workshops, Quality Matters Certifications, ALLY Training, and LMS Training.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2

Southern Union State Community College will offer attainable, stackable degree pathways, including concurrent enrollment programs, designed to provide a qualified workforce to meet local and regional needs enabling students to achieve their academic and career goals. The College will work to ensure that these pathways are accessible, relevant, and responsive educational programs that meet the current needs of all stakeholders.

- Partner with four-year colleges and universities to develop additional concurrent enrollment programs.
- Create new non-credit and credit short certificate programs that address the changing needs of workforce, business, industry, and the community.
- Create new stackable degree pathways that feature multiple on and off-ramps including dual enrollment, work-based learning, third-party credentials, and employment.
- Implement work-based learning experiences for all instructional divisions.
- Establish a system to track and monitor success of students in work-based learning.
- Apply the guided pathways model to students in academic transfer programs to provide clear, structured program maps to enhance student completion.
- Apply the career pathways model to students enrolled in an adult education program using a student-centered mentoring model.

SEPTEMBER 13, 1923

Classes began at Bethlehem College. The first class had 51 students.

1930-1933

Operated as Southern Union College

OCTOBER 1, 1964

The college was deeded to the state of Alabama and became part of the new two-year college system. The name of the college became Southern Union State Junior College.

JUNE 2, 1922

Southern Union was chartered as Bethlehem College in Wadley.

1928-1929

Operated as Piedmont Junior College

1933-1964

Operated as The Southern Union College



OUR MISSION

Southern Union State Community College, an open admission, public two-year college and member of the Alabama Community College System, provides quality and relevant teaching and learning in academic, technical, and health science programs that are affordable, accessible, equitable, and responsive to the diverse needs of its students, community, business, industry, and government.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3

Southern Union State Community College will promote educational equity by offering student support services based on evidence-based educational practices, which are designed to increase enrollment, retention, completion, and graduation rates.

- Increase awareness of the Student Success Program, Academic Intervention Plans, the Early Alert System, Academic Support, the Student Success Center, ADA Services, Supplemental Instruction Pods, and Adult Education Services.
- Increase the retention and completion rates for underserved and disadvantaged students including first-generation college students, older adults returning to school, under-prepared high school students, minority students, GED graduates, online and virtual students, veterans, low-income students, and students who were foster children or are currently in the foster care system.
- Increase recruitment efforts in non-traditional settings.
- Increase awareness of work-based learning opportunities.
- Develop an institutional work-based learning process.
- Reduce the digital divide among students.
- Develop an evidenced based advising model that will enhance student relationships with faculty and staff.
- Redesign the College Website.
- Employ instructional designers (ID) to work with instructors to design optimal online content and delivery, meet accessibility standards, increase student engagement, and make the best use of the technology available.

STRATEGIC GOAL 4

Southern Union State Community College will establish, maintain, and expand relationships with communities, business and industry, and economic and workforce development stakeholders and will work collaboratively with those entities to respond to the changing needs of the students and the region.

- Expand collaborations and relationships with external stakeholders to identify and meet institutional, business, industry, workforce development, and community needs.
- Serve as a hub for business, industry, workforce development, community development meetings and activities.
- Foster community betterment initiatives, leadership development, local school system workforce training programs, and training programs for economically disadvantaged members of the service communities.
- Generate community focused strategies that provide opportunities for faculty and staff and students to invest in the community by participating in service-learning and volunteer activities.



1974
The Valley Campus opened on Fob James Drive.

1993
Southern Union State Community College was formed.

1970
The college achieved accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

1982
The college purchased land in Opelika and began offering a full-range of courses.

JUNE 2, 2022
Southern Union celebrates 100 years!



www.suscc.edu



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