

SECTION 3, COMPREHENSIVE STANDARD 3.4.2

The institution's continuing education, outreach, and service programs are consistent with the institution's mission.

JUDGMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Compliant

Partially Compliant

Noncompliant

RATIONALE FOR JUDGMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The institution offers a range of continuing education, outreach, and service programs consistent with its mission of developing "leaders who respect all people, maintain high ethical standards, continue intellectual and personal growth, and serve the community, the state, the nation, and the world." Leadership of this kind is encouraged through exposure to a variety of programming, engagement with challenging ideas and contexts, and opportunity to connect with others in meaningful and productive ways. Those served by the institution in this way include members of the local community and region, as well as others attracted from greater distances by programs offered by the institution.

Continuing education, outreach, and service programs are regularly evaluated in relation to the institution's mission through the comprehensive assessment program in place for all university departments, described in the write-ups for Core Requirement 2.5 and Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1. Documentation of these assessments may be found in assessment reports referenced for CR 2.5 and CS 3.3.1.

Continuing Education offers a range of programming to encourage community members to "continue intellectual and personal growth." Computer-related courses, from programming to web surfing and all stops between, challenge some populations of clients to keep an active mind, and provide new job-related skills to enhance the workplace impact of others. Intellectually stimulating programming includes language learning, SAT preparation, and literature courses, among others. Physical well-being is addressed through swimming, yoga, karate, golf, horseback riding, scuba diving, and other activity classes. Courses in gardening, beading, painting, and photography are among those designed to develop participants' healthy use of leisure time. Offerings target participants of all ages, with life skills,

work skills, hobby pursuits, and travel opportunities described in the Continuing Education Catalog [1].

The NGCSU Appalachian Studies Center [2] has been designated by the Georgia General Assembly as the official Appalachian studies center for the state of Georgia [3]. Focusing on a variety of citizen-driven issues, the center provides and fosters leadership in the community, state, and region and represents a diverse set of interests. Currently, leadership is fostered through the work of a forty-five member advisory board, twelve member executive committee, and sixteen project chairs. The leadership provided through these groups comes from members of the NGCSU student body, faculty, and staff, and area citizens. During the past year, the center has held three leadership training retreats, with plans to continue training in the coming academic year. In addition, community and campus volunteers provide leadership developing, planning, and implementing projects and activities that relate to such issues as cultural preservation, economic development, tourism, environmental conservation, community health problems, and quality education.

Academic departments, as well, reach out into the community and the institution's service area, making the area richer in innumerable ways. The Fine Arts Department sponsors numerous concerts, art exhibits, and plays each year, all open to the public as well as to the campus community [4, 5]. Through exposure to such variety, patrons grow in their ability to appreciate difference and respect others. Members of the Fine Arts faculty also assist in area arts events sponsored by community and public school music groups, as well as participating in area art exhibits. The department hosts regional conferences, camps, and contests for public schools; and it invites and encourages participation of community members in some ensembles (such as the Chamber Orchestra). Campus music groups also perform out in the community and in local and state parades, offering the arts experience to a range of populations.

An outreach program of the School of Education, the META program is an after-school tutoring program that focuses on Latino children's improvement in math and English, school attendance, and school behavior. The program has a parent component that consists of English-language and computer skills education, and an in-depth orientation into USA school systems, family health issues, and other cultural adaptation matters. NGCSU students are trained to become effective tutors before being placed at the three middle schools. They are expected to serve as tutors and mentors to the children, to introduce the children to the meaning of obtaining a college degree, and to motivate them to become mentors to younger children. They are also expected to learn about different cultures and countries by interacting with

the children and their parents. Thus, leadership is developed by the META program in both those who serve and those who are served.

The Math and Computer Science Department annually sponsors a Mathematics Tournament. The tournament is a competition among area high schools, and first, second, and third place awards (certificates and ribbons) are given in three categories. The team award is accompanied by a trophy (with engravings for previous winners) that the winning school keeps for a year. All schools in "Region 2," as well as Fannin County, Gilmer County, and Pickens County, are invited. Ten teams of eight or less are selected to compete [6]. Young participants in the competition are encouraged in their love of learning through the spirit of excitement that pervades the tournament. Faculty of the Math and Computer Science Department also encourage this excitement about learning through periodic visits to area high schools and middle schools to conduct some sort of mathematical activity which is usually outside the scope of the students' standard curriculum.

The Language and Literature Department annually sponsors a Foreign Language Day for area high school students. Entries are invited in the areas of Creative Writing, Language Bowl, Performing Arts, Exhibits, and Skits [7]. The event has a history of over thirty years of fostering appreciation for different languages and cultures [8].

Beyond the offerings of academic departments, a number of other initiatives are seated at the university. Among these are the Entrepreneurial Leadership Center, serving students, the institution, and the community through a program of speakers, grants, and information coordination, as described in the Entrepreneurial Leadership Center flyer [9]. Another such program is the Environmental Leadership Center, established in Fall semester of 2005. The Center promotes leadership in environmental issues, both within and outside the institution [10]. Conducted by the Cadet Recruiting Center is an annual workshop for high school R.O.T.C. students nationwide, J-LEAD, emphasizing leadership skills and teamwork for J.R.O.T.C. students [11].

Document Reference:

Number	DB Num	Document Title	Resource
1		NGCSU Continuing Education Catalog	http://www.ngcsu.edu/CE/index.htm
2		Appalachian Studies Center web pages	http://www.ngcsu.edu/resource/ASC/

Number	DB Num	Document Title	Resource
3		Georgia General Assembly HR 1258	http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/su/m/hr1258.htm
4		NGCSU Fall Fine Arts Brochure	http://www.ngcsu.edu/sacs/Reference_Room/documents/NGCSU_documents/Fa05Events.pdf
5		NGCSU Spring Fine Arts Brochure	http://www.ngcsu.edu/sacs/Reference_Room/documents/NGCSU_documents/Sp06Events.pdf
6		Mathematics Tournament Invitation Letter	http://www.ngcsu.edu/sacs/Reference_Room/documents/NGCSU_documents/Math_Tourn_2006_Ltr.pdf
7		Foreign Language Day Web page	http://www.ngcsu.edu/Academic/Arts_Let/LangLit/FRENCH/BMann/Resources/FLD/FLD.shtml
8		Foreign Language Day 2006 Press Release Memo	http://www.ngcsu.edu/sacs/Reference_Room/documents/NGCSU_documents/Publicity_2005.pdf
9		Entrepreneurial Leadership Center Flyer	http://www.ngcsu.edu/sacs/Reference_Room/documents/NGCSU_documents/ELC_Flyer.pdf
10		Proposal: Environmental Leadership Center	http://www.ngcsu.edu/sacs/Reference_Room/documents/NGCSU_documents/Proposal_Environment_Lead_Ctr.pdf
11		J.R.O.T.C. Leadership Evaluation, Assessment and Development Program	http://www.ngcsu.edu/sacs/Reference_Room/documents/NGCSU_documents/j-lead_ppt.pdf