

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE---MISSION STATEMENT

The College of Public and Community Service is one of five colleges that comprise the University of Massachusetts Boston campus. As Such, CPCS seeks to extend the tradition of the land grant university in a number of ways:

- ' By educating students to foster the public good and aid the transformation to a more equitable society
- ' By providing research, advocacy, technical assistance, and service to the surrounding community
- ' By forging partnerships with public agencies and community organizations that enhance the quality of life for low income and other inadequately served populations

In these ways, the college works toward overcoming the attitudes, beliefs, and structures in our society which prevent access to the resources that exist and discourage full participation in economic, civic, cultural, and political life. As an alternative educational institution, CPCS endeavors to function as an inclusive, democratic, and participatory learning community which promotes diversity, equality, and social justice.

CPCS actively cultivates a diverse and mature student body and offers an empowering and effective education which equips students to advocate for themselves and to improve the health and well-being of their chosen communities. The college recognizes that, particularly in a multicultural society, such an educational enterprise is inextricably bound to the complementary goals of meaningful access and adequate support for underserved populations. The successful CPCS graduate is a competent, confident, self-directed, life-long learner who can demonstrate:

- * The language and technical skills necessary for purposeful inquiry and communication
- * The professional competence to function effectively in a broad range of workplace and community-based roles
- * The critical consciousness needed to clarify and challenge prevailing values, ideologies, and practices
- * The essential knowledge required for participating fully in society

The CPCS curriculum is designed with such students in mind. The core of this inventive educational system is a self-paced, competency-based, outcome-oriented curriculum in which prior learning is validated and collaborative projects are encouraged. At CPCS, the student is considered a resource in the educational process, and the acquisition of knowledge and skills intersects with experiential learning and field-based education. As a forward-looking educational institution, CPCS continues to explore innovative delivery systems and technologies and seeks to articulate its educational philosophy and pedagogy with other academic institutions, community organizations, and public agencies.