

Vocational mission (March 2003)

To create lifelong learners contributing to the good of the local community and the larger world

Goals

1. to create vision of each person's potential for good (people's gifts are complementary)
 - assess strengths
 - personal interests
 - other people's feedback
 - formal testing (e.g, Strong-Campbell Inventory, Myers-Briggs, etc.)
 - trial and error
 - accept that solo performers aren't nearly as effective as communities
 - "no man is an island"
 - St. Paul's image of the parts of the body (when exercise one part, whole benefits)
 - Lewis Thomas' analogies
 - organizations and individuals live in community together
 - understand that strengths are also weaknesses and weaknesses are strengths
2. to identify personally relevant service niches (needs/causes/problems)
3. to guide the exploration and use of traditional and new sources of information (tools with which to build)
 - to find information
 - strategies to locate it quickly
 - textbooks
 - reference books
 - periodical resources
 - multimedia resources
 - electronic resources
 - strategies to locate it accurately
 - to understand the information
 - to identify overviews
 - to paraphrase it accurately
 - to reformat information in useful ways
 - text → simpler text (summary paragraphs)
 - text → graphics (e.g., pie charts)
 - text → activities
 - text → audio
 - audio → text
 - audio → graphics
 - to see its applicability to the real world
 - to anticipate its consequences (cause-effect relationships)
 - to evaluate the information
 - is the source credible?
 - is the content presented logically?
 - is the content in the appropriate context?
4. to apply knowledge and skills to the needs/causes/problems relevant to the individual