

WOODBURY HOSTS “COME DREAM WITH US” FUTURE PLANNING MEETING

On the evening of Tuesday, January 13, Woodbury College President Larry Mandell hosted a dinner and evening of discussion to help define the future direction of the College. Prior to the evening, President Mandell stated, “Woodbury College is at an exciting time in its development and as we look to Woodbury’s future, we value more than ever the thoughts and concerns of those around us in our community.”

The evening’s agenda began with approximately 40 attendees dividing into five smaller groups to brainstorm “The Essence of Woodbury,” and then to analyze three themes from their brainstorming lists. Next, President Mandell shared current vision and ideas for Woodbury College’s future. The evening concluded with a full group discussion of participants’ ideas and vision for the College’s future.

The evening’s activities produced six primary themes related to the essence and future of Woodbury College:

- **A caring learning community**

Woodbury College provides a learning environment that is caring, supportive, and with profound connections between students and faculty. It is an institution that welcomes students like family.

- **Civic engagement**

Woodbury College educates students to be fully engaged citizens by presenting programs of study aimed at helping to sustain a healthy democratic society.

- **Best practices in adult education**

Woodbury College provides an education that includes ample practical, real-world experience, strong academic challenge, with focus on collaboration and self-direction.

- **Educational justice**

Woodbury College ensures that education is made available to special populations such as low-income and first generation students. A cornerstone of its educational philosophy is strong belief in *everyone’s* potential and value to the community. The Woodbury environment is designed to help non-traditional students overcome barriers found in more traditional settings.

- **Transformative learning**

Woodbury College strives to help students make their higher education a life-changing experience by encouraging them to take risks and surmount new challenges in a caring and supportive environment.

- **Rigor**

Woodbury College challenges students with high expectations, rich academics, and potentially life-changing experiences within a supportive, socially conscious environment.

- **Resource to the community**

Place where people meet to collaborate and create healthy, sustainable communities