



# GCSC FOUNDATION

## Gulf Coast State College Foundation Strategic Planning

Presented by Kentrie LeDee, MBA

Director, Strategy and Innovation





## Agenda

- Foundation Talent DNA by CliftonStrengths
- Direction of the Foundation
- Foundation Mission and Values
- Strategic Goals Development
- Implentation and Execution Focus
- Communication and Stakeholder Engagement
- Continuous Improvement



## CliftonStrengths Overview

#### **Talent Identification**

Understanding individual natural patterns of thinking, feeling, and behavior that can be productively applied.

#### **Team Optimization**

Leveraging complementary strengths across our foundation leadership for maximum effectiveness.

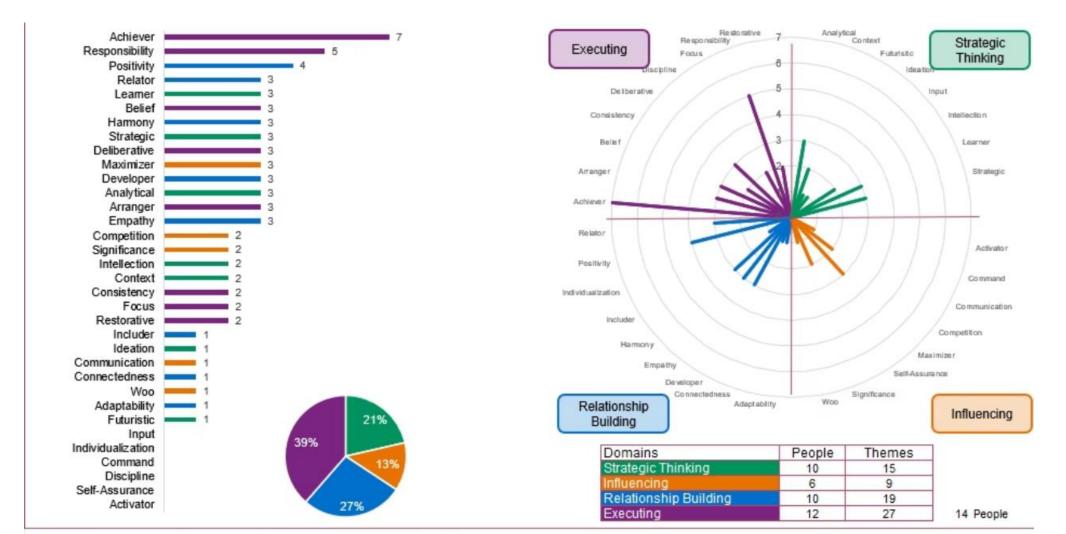
#### **Strategic Application**

Aligning personal strengths with foundation goals to drive innovation and sustainable growth.



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Jack Kerigan	5							1																		4						2	3	
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Jill Bauer																			2	4				3	1	5								
Jamie Shepard											2		1			4			5					3										
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Jerry Sowell		2				3											4			5	1													
Becky Cochran																			2	5		1					3						4	

### Foundation DNA



Tean	Top 5	As a team we bring	As a team we need	As a team we are motivated by
50%	Achiever	intensity and stamina of effort	freedom to work at my own pace	completing tasks
36%	Responsibility	dependability and loyalty	freedom to take ownership	the respect of others
29%	Positivity	contagious energy and enthusiasm	freedom to experience the joy and drama of life	living life to its fullest
21%	Relator	social depth and transparency	time and opportunities for one-on-one interactions	close, caring, mutual relationships
21%	Learner	a learning perspective	exposure to new information and experiences	to live on the frontier / the cutting edge







### Direction of the Foundation



#### **Expands Access**



#### **Builds Donor Trust**

Strategic fundraising provides scholarships and emergency aid. More students start, stay, and succeed.

Clear focus inspires
confidence. Strong
partnerships form with
committed philanthropists.



#### Aligns with Community Needs

Connects college with local employers and organizations. Supports workforce development and economic growth.



### Direction of the Foundation

#### **Fuels Innovation & Growth**

Supports new programs, capital projects, and college initiatives. Elevates student experience and institutional excellence.



#### **Promotes Equity and Inclusion**

Ensures funding reaches underserved and first-generation students. Advances educational and economic mobility for all.





## Where Do You Want to Go, GCSC Foundation?

Exploring our future direction through key strategic questions



#### **Vision & Direction**

What will successful impact look like in 5 years?

What legacy do we want to leave in our community?



#### **Mission Alignment**

How well do our activities reflect our mission?

Which initiatives most directly advance student success?



#### **Growth & Innovation**

What bold opportunities should we explore?

How can we innovate our fundraising and outreach?



#### **Outcomes & Impact**

What specific outcomes should we show stakeholders?

How should we define success beyond dollars raised?





### Mission Remix Workshop

#### Foundation Purpose Exploration

Break into groups. Answer: "Why does our foundation exist?" Write on sticky notes. Discuss top themes.

#### **Current Mission Review**

Evaluate what resonates, what feels outdated, and what's missing from our mission statement.

#### **Draft Creation**

Write revised mission using template: "The mission of GCSC Foundation is to [primary action] by [method] for [impact]."

#### **Collaborative Refinement**

Present drafts. Select favorite phrases or concepts. Build consensus around core elements.



### **Foundation Mission**

Your Legacy, Their Future

The Gulf Coast State College Foundation's mission is to create a scholarship program providing educational opportunities to deserving students. Further, the mission of the Foundation is to enhance the educational programs and student services available at Gulf Coast State College. Through the active involvement and leadership of citizens united by these purposes, the Foundation serves as an effective liaison between the College and the community. The Foundation assists the College in enriching the community through cultural opportunities and in enhancing the economic development of the community with educational programs.



### **Foundation Mission**

Your Legacy, Their Future



## **Expanding Educational Access**

The GCSC Foundation provides scholarships to deserving students, expanding access to higher education and creating opportunities for academic success.



## **Enhancing Academic Excellence**

We support the enhancement of academic programs and student services at Gulf Coast State College to ensure quality education and student achievement.



## Fostering Community Partnerships

Through active involvement of engaged community leaders, the Foundation builds strong partnerships between the College and the community.

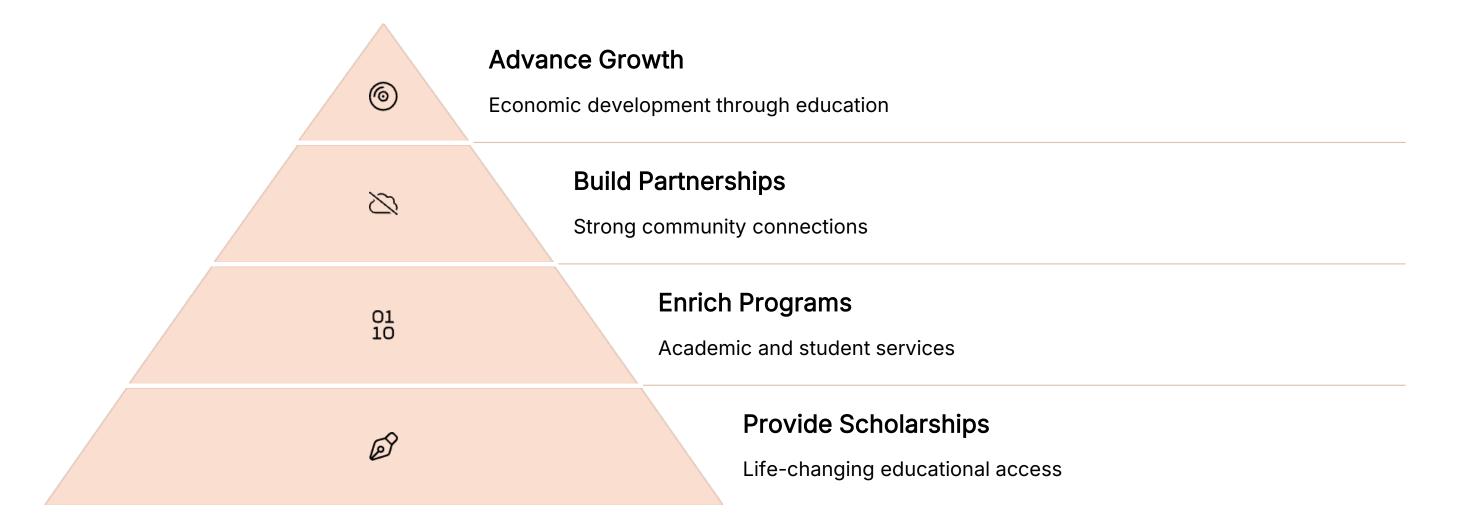


## Advancing Regional Development

The Foundation helps enrich cultural opportunities and advance regional economic development through impactful educational initiatives.



### Foundation Mission - Refined



To provide life-changing scholarships, enrich academic and student programs, and build strong community partnerships that advance education, culture, and economic growth.



### **College Strategic Directions**



#### **Learning First**

Prioritizing educational excellence and academic achievement



#### **Student Success**

Focusing on completion, persistence, and career readiness



#### Accessibility & Engagement

Removing barriers and enhancing student involvement



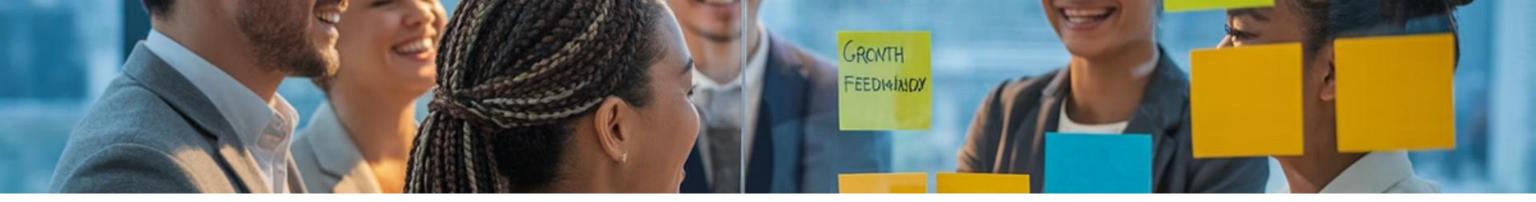
#### **Community Connections**

Strengthening partnerships with regional stakeholders



#### **Organizational Culture**

Building a positive, inclusive institutional environment



### **Foundation Goal-Setting Activity**



#### **Identify Opportunities**

Discuss 3 biggest opportunities and challenges for next 1-3 years



#### **Define Success**

Determine what success looks like and how to move the needle



#### **Prioritize Ideas**

Select top 2-3 ideas and refine with SMART goal framework



#### **Gallery Walk**

Post goals, review all submissions, vote on most impactful options



### Example:

Increase the Foundation's total scholarship fund to \$15 million by June 2028 by launching targeted fundraising campaigns, cultivating major donors, and expanding planned giving programs, resulting in an average annual fundraising increase of at least \$1.875 million.

### Why it's SMART:

- Specific: Focused on increasing the scholarship fund.
- Measurable: Goal is \$15 million.
- Achievable: Structured over 4 years with annual benchmarks.
- Relevant: Aligned with the Foundation's mission to support student access and success.
- Time-bound: Deadline set for June 2028.





### **Foundation Goals**

\$15M

10%

**Gulf Coast Guarantee** 

**Asset Growth** 

Increase fund to \$15 million in 4 years

Increase total assets by 10% annually

25%

#### **Donor Engagement**

Increase donor acquisition and retention

Additional goals include implementing comprehensive fund tracking, launching donor impact communications, and developing multi-channel marketing strategies.



### **Foundation Values**



#### Access

Expanding educational opportunities for all



#### Excellence

Supporting innovative, highimpact learning



#### Stewardship

Managing resources with integrity and transparency



#### **Partnership**

Building lasting relationships with our community



#### **Impact**

Driving positive change through education



## Goals to Objectives







Turn strategic goals into clear, achievable objectives. Map what needs to happen to achieve each goal. Identify key milestones. Prioritize which objectives to tackle first.





## Communication & Stakeholder Engagement

Define Segments	Identify different stakeholder groups and their unique needs
Clear Strategy	Create consistent messaging and appropriate channels for each segment
Transparency	Share outcomes and impact metrics that demonstrate accountability
Two-Way Dialogue	Collect feedback and actively involve stakeholders in planning
Storytelling	Share compelling student and donor stories that illustrate impact





## Communication & Stakeholder Engagement

Leverage Foundation Leadership and Ambassadors	Board members are ambassadors equiped with talking points, media kits and event roles.
Annual Communication Calendar	Schedule updates around giving campaigns, scholarship award cycles, community events, and fiscal year wrap-ups.
Celebrate and Recognize Supporters	Host recognition events, publicly recognize and acknowledge donors in newsletters, report, and online.
Evaluate and Adjust	Track open rates, click-throughs, event RSVPs, and engagement metrics.  Annually review what's working and refine your strategy.



### **Continuous Improvement**

Implementing a robust continuous improvement framework strengthens the Foundation's ability to grow and adapt in a changing environment.



#### Set Clear, Measurable Goals

Establish specific, quantifiable objectives with defined timelines. Ensure all goals align with the Foundation's mission and strategic directions.



#### **Data-Driven Decision-Making**

Collect and analyze relevant data points before making strategic choices. Establish metrics that accurately reflect impact and organizational health.



#### **Professional Development**

Invest in ongoing training for Foundation staff and board members. Build capacity in fundraising, governance, financial management, and community engagement.



#### **Improve Internal Processes**

Regularly review and streamline operational workflows. Eliminate inefficiencies and adopt technologies that enhance productivity and donor experience.



#### Implement Feedback Loops

Create structured systems to gather input from donors, students, faculty, and community partners. Use feedback to guide adjustments to programs and initiatives.



#### **Annual Program Reviews**

Conduct comprehensive evaluations of all Foundation programs and scholarships. Assess effectiveness, relevance, and alignment with current strategic priorities.



#### **Benchmark Against Peer Institutions**

Compare performance metrics with similar college foundations. Identify best practices and opportunities for innovation based on industry standards.



#### **Celebrate and Communicate Progress**

Recognize achievements and milestones reached. Share progress updates with stakeholders to build confidence and maintain momentum.

Through systematic application of these continuous improvement practices, the Foundation can maximize its impact while adapting to changing educational and philanthropic environments.



### **Next Steps**



**Gather Information** 

Take all information provided from today's session



Final Delivery

Deliver final draft of the completed strategic plan



**Draft Strategic Plan** 

Begin drafting the comprehensive strategic plan



**Board Review** 

Schedule a virtual meeting with Board for initial feedback



**Revision Meeting** 

Schedule a second meeting to review edits and refinements