

2003 SHARED VISION BRIEFING PAPER

The focus groups, interviews, and other discussions held during the period between the 2000 WASC visit and June, 2003, produced a profile of a consensual (shared) vision for the university. Not everyone may agree on every facet of the vision, let alone on how it is to be fulfilled. Following are the five main areas of overlap or core vision, with their significant features, as articulated by staff, faculty, students, and administrators.

a. *Learn-by-Doing*

- Hands-on, applied and community or service-oriented emphasis
- Theoretical and general education still considered by the vast majority to be important and thriving at the university
- All colleges have innovative community linkages, hands-on opportunities, service-learning, and other programs and activities that are described as learn-by-doing
- Pedagogies inherent in this learn-by-doing emphasis prepares students for life-long learning

b. *Polytechnic Nature*

- Widespread acceptance of the polytechnic identify, even by traditional liberal arts scholars and scientists whose work is firmly planted in the world of theory
- Idea of polytechnic goes far beyond computers to include a variety of approaches and techniques (as in the dictionary definition)
- Learning place where technologically sophisticated, community-oriented, knowledgeable citizens of the world prepare for any kind of life they choose, where there's no conflict between the liberal arts and the technical schools but rather interdependence
- Polytechnic identify is also connected to the learn-by-doing pedagogy, in that it connotes an educational process of translating theory into practice.

c. *The Teaching Mission*

- Undergraduate education will not take second place to anything else anytime soon; teaching is the first priority of the faculty
- We are growing in research capability, grants and contracts, graduate programs, community outreach, and technology, but these will not become the top priority

d. *Diversity and Internationalization*

- These goals are reflective of our distinctiveness; they are a fertile source of innovation and learning for everyone on campus
- Diversity and internationalization speak to our mission statement, "preparing students for lifelong learning, leadership and careers in a changing multicultural world".
- Balance our goal of excellence with our other goal of access and opportunity for the many

e. *Quality Education*

- Cal Poly Pomona staff, faculty, students, and administrators almost unequivocally believe we are offering a superior education content, in terms of excellent teaching, excellent courses, high performance in later careers and education.