# Innovation and Tradition: Goals for Our Second Century

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In 2000, Morrisville State College published its strategic plan, “Our Future in Focus” to provide direction for the college. Many of the goals set forth in that document have since been accomplished, and we are now ready to take the next step in the college’s development.

The 2005-2012 strategic plan, named “Innovation and Tradition: Goals for Our Second Century,” is reflective of the overall Morrisville culture—that the possibilities for growth are limited only by the imaginations of the college’s students, faculty and staff, administration and supporters.

This plan provides an in-depth analysis of several of the college’s key affecting agents: demography, education, workforce, technology and energy. Some important trends include:

- The aging of the Baby Boomer population will affect the number and type of jobs available to tomorrow’s college graduates.
- Population in both the United States and New York state will become increasingly heterogeneous.
- State and federal funding for higher education will continue to decline.
- Technology will continue to become smaller, quicker and more portable.
- The cost of using non-renewable energy sources will increase, spurring growth in renewable energy technology and thereby creating jobs.

In addition to taking the overall environment in which higher education operates into account, it was also necessary to consider Morrisville State College’s own strengths and weaknesses. Armed with this information, seven institutional goals were created:

1) Develop, support and deliver new baccalaureate and associate degree programs in strategic niches
2) Maximize institutional effectiveness
3) Enhance the physical environment of the college
4) Intensify the integration of technology into the college culture
5) Expand academic and student support systems
6) Improve business and community relationships
7) Enhance and expand institutional resource development

A subset of specific operational goals will be created under each goal and continually updated over the next seven years.

Morrisville State College has a vision for its future—one which includes technology, innovation and personal commitment. Through the diligence of the Morrisville community, the college is well on its way to becoming a nationally recognized college of agriculture and technology, providing the best education to tomorrow’s leaders.
Dear Friends,

The seven-year period of this strategic plan, which we have named “Innovation and Tradition,” sits astride a milestone in Morrisville State College’s history: its centennial. The college will celebrate its 100th year of providing top-notch education in 2008. More than ever, this is an excellent time for reflection on the past and consideration of future goals.

In 1908, Morrisville State College consisted of three buildings, 50 students and two degree programs. Today, it has grown to include nearly 100 buildings, more than 3,000 students and 73 degree programs.

Though the physical structure of the campus has changed significantly, we remain committed to the college’s rich legacy, strong values and time-honored traditions.

The world is changing rapidly, and institutions of higher education must continue to change with it or run the risk of becoming obsolete. This is good news for Morrisville State College. Our institutional culture is highly progressive and adaptive. Our faculty, staff and students are innovators and early adopters, giving us a competitive advantage over the typical “ivory tower” institutions whose faculty, staff and administration can be resistant to change.

I am confident that Morrisville will continually progress, and can only imagine what the college will be as it celebrates its bicentennial in 2108.

At Morrisville State College, we control our own destiny. We have the opportunity to decide what kind of institution we want to be.

That is why it has been so important to make the strategic planning process a collaborative one. All of the institution’s constituencies were involved, and the end result is what I believe to be an excellent plan.

The future of Morrisville State College is promising. We will embark upon the college’s second century confident and excited, knowing that this future is one we will create ourselves, together.

Sincerely,

Ray Cross, Ph.D.
President, Morrisville State College
The planning process for the 2005-2012 Strategic Plan puts emphasis on the collaborative nature of the institution. All groups identified as stakeholders were engaged in the strategic planning process, including:

- Faculty
- Professional staff
- Support staff
- Morrisville Auxiliary Corporation staff
- Students
- Cabinet (Senior staff)
- Senior Council
- College Council members
- Foundation Board members

A full-day strategic planning retreat was held in August 2004 and included input from administration, faculty and staff. This retreat focused mainly on strategic analysis.

The first step in the planning process was a strategic analysis of the external and internal environments. Critical national, state, regional and internal trends were identified from research in four areas: demography, education and funding, the workforce and technology. With that information in mind, each stakeholder group was asked to identify what they deemed to be the institution’s top three strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and which trends they deemed to be most critical or relevant.

Next, each stakeholder group considered the future of Morrisville State College. They were asked what the college “will be” or “will do” in the next seven years. In addition, they were asked to suggest a graphical image or picture of what the college will represent in the future.

A group of faculty was convened to evaluate the college’s existing mission statement and to determine if changes were needed. The committee suggested slight modifications to the statement, making it more succinct. A role and scope statement added below would allow further explanation of the mission statement.

Several strategic goals were extrapolated from the results of the SWOT analysis. Each stakeholder group had the opportunity to analyze, comment and add other ideas. A list of actionable items were distributed, and all parties assigned priorities. These items were then formatted to fit the college’s operational plan format.
The strategic plan has been designed as a plan for the college through the year 2012. Each year from now until 2012, an operational plan that outlines specific activities and budgetary needs and allocations will be developed. As we work with this plan, there are a number of assumptions that we can make and incorporate into this strategic plan for the continued success and the future of the college.

The assumptions in the plan are:

- We plan our future by examining our current situation and determining what alternatives we wish to pursue. From this examination, we set out goals for the preferred future.
- We will then develop the needed objectives and strategies to accomplish each goal or refine our original targets.
- All strategic plans should be dynamic and living documents—changes should be common and expected.
- This plan should serve as a communications device.
- The college anticipates an increase in the number of graduates who will eventually be self-employed.
- The college will strongly encourage and support entrepreneurial activities.
- The college will continue to maintain an appropriate mix of liberal, professional and technical education offering baccalaureate and associate degrees and certificates.
- The college will continue to evaluate, update, upgrade and develop curricula and programs based on a defined review process that will meet the demands of students and the changing workforce.
- The college will continue to expand and modify new and existing facilities to support academic and social programs for our students.
- The college will continue to place emphasis on access to technology and technologies that expand the learning opportunities for students.
- The college will continue to primarily serve residential students while expanding service to non-traditional and place-bound students through using off-campus and technology-oriented strategies.
- The college’s demographic mix will continue to grow more diverse, reflecting the population of New York state and the United States.
- The college will work closely with the village of Morrisville and assume a responsible role in providing assistance and cooperation with its initiatives.
These values reflect what we hope the Morrisville State College learning and working environment is and what it will continue to be:

**STUDENTS:** First and foremost, our commitment is to our students, who are the central focus of our mission.

**LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT:** We will be dedicated to the lifelong task of discovering, disseminating, preserving and applying knowledge for the development of an educated citizenry. Additionally, we will strive to foster the opportunity for intellectual, physical, social, moral and cultural development of the whole person.

**INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY:** We will encourage creativity, entrepreneurialism and innovation in our employees, our students, and our partners.

**EQUITY/DIVERSITY:** We will strive to create an open and accepting environment free of bias or favoritism respecting the dignity and value of all individuals.

**QUALITY:** We will strive to measure ourselves by external standards whenever possible and to expect all individuals associated with the college to continually strive for excellence.

**COMMUNITY AND FAMILY:** We will strive to create an environment where the interests of the workplace are not in conflict, but in concert with community and family interests. We will strive to involve faculty and staff through open, honest communications.

**HUMOR AND FUN:** We will strive to create a “fun” working and learning environment.

**INTEGRITY:** We will strive to hold ourselves to the highest standards of honesty, fairness and professional and scholarly ethics.

**ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY:** We will strive to promote access by working to eliminate financial barriers, distance barriers and readiness limitations.

**DEBATE:** We will strive to create an environment open to debate in our classrooms, our laboratories and our governance systems.

**GRACIOUS AND FRIENDLY:** We will strive to display a friendly, courteous and helpful attitude. We will strive to give students, faculty and our staff our individual attention.

**CIVILITY:** We are an organization which values differences and debate. Civil behavior, good manners and respect provide the lubrication necessary for productive discussion and harmonious interaction.
In considering our future, we must look not only at our own past and present, but at the world and industry in which we exist. What trends are occurring in New York state, the nation and the world? How is higher education changing and how does the college need to change to meet the needs of the new world? We’ve identified the trends we think will be the most important in the next five to ten years, and juxtaposed them against our own internal trends.

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

As the Baby Boom generation (people born between 1946 and 1964) approaches retirement age, the United States will have a significantly elderly population. In 1900, half of the nation’s population was less than 22.9 years old; in 2000, half of the population was more than 35.3 years old, the nation’s highest median age ever.\(^1\)

The ethnic makeup of the population is also in flux, with an increasingly heterogeneous population developing over the next 20 years. The 2000 U.S. Census showed a high growth rate in the number of people who identify themselves as Hispanic; this growth is expected to continue, with the Hispanic population projected to be larger than the African-American population by the year 2025. The Asian population, though smaller in number, is also increasing quickly. Conversely, though the African American population is projected to grow, it will happen at a much slower rate than in the past.\(^2\)

One of the most relevant sub-groups of the population is “Generation Y,” or people born between 1980 and 2000. Members of this demographic group are current and prospective college students. Generation Y has specific, identifiable characteristics which will be a factor in defining future trends.

Some facts about “Generation Y” include:

- The most ethnically diverse generation yet, one in three of its members are non-white.
- One in four lives in a single-parent household.
- Three of four have working mothers.
- Teenagers have an average of $100 per week disposable income, and 40 percent of teens hold at least part-time jobs.
- More than 75 percent of teenagers have a computer at home; 50 percent have access to the Internet at home.
- Studies show they prefer directness over subtlety, and action over observation.
- They are very heavily influenced by their peers and brand names.\(^3\)
- 15 percent of their spending is done online; men spend 1.7 times more online than women.\(^4\)
The characteristics of students entering college now are much different than their “Generation X” predecessors of a decade ago. Growing up during the Information Revolution has made them technologically savvy and used to instant access to information. A changing definition of family has shaped their interpersonal relationships. They are coming to college with more emotional needs. These factors, and many more, will affect the resources colleges and universities need to expend to attract and retain students. For example:

- According to one study, 85 percent of incoming college freshman have never shared a bedroom and 30 percent have never shared a bathroom.
- More students want to live on campus with proximity to amenities on campus and a diverse and vibrant campus life.\(^5\)
- 40 percent of U.S. college students take psychoactive drugs (i.e. Prozac, Ritalin)
- 43 percent of college students binge-drink alcohol.\(^6\)

**EDUCATION**

The national and New York state college population will increase as a result of an increase in number in the 18 to 24-year-old demographic group. According to the New York State Department of Education, overall college enrollment is projected to increase 5.6 percent between now and 2013. Enrollment in SUNY institutions is projected to increase at a higher rate, 6.8 percent, in the same time period. Most of these students will be full-time.

The number of women attending and receiving degrees from institutions of higher education continues to increase dramatically, with 8.6 million women enrolled in 2000, compared to 6.7 million men. This trend will continue, with a projected 10.4 women enrolled in 2013, a 21 percent increase.\(^7\)

Strong growth is projected between 2000 and 2013 for women in associate degree programs (20 percent vs. 7 percent for men), bachelor degree programs (25 percent vs. 16 percent for men) and doctor’s degrees (12 percent vs. .1 percent for men).\(^8\)

Studies have shown that student enrollment in science, mathematics and engineering (SME) programs is in decline. SME curricula are traditionally male-dominated, with participation and persistence rates for female and minority students dramatically lower than those of the total population.

In addition, the National Research Center for College and University Admissions (NRC-CUA) lists engineering, automotive technology, electrical engineering and information technology (traditionally male-dominated programs) as the fastest sinking career areas. Equine studies, dance/choreography, fashion merchandising, nursing/health care and interior design (traditionally female-dominated programs) are named the fastest growing areas, according to data received from high school students in the classes of 2001 and 2005.\(^9\)

Both national and New York state trends show a shift in funding for public institutions from state sources to tuition and private sources. On a national level, tuition and fees increased, as did financial aid expenditures for institutions.\(^10\)
New York state funding levels for SUNY campuses have increased in the past two decades; however, institutional operating costs for items such as energy and salaries have risen at a higher rate. This trend, combined with a six-year hold on tuition in the late 1990s has taxed public institutions in New York state, forcing them to rely heavily on private funding.  

Non-governmental funding for education is also declining slightly. In 2002, contributions to colleges and universities dropped 1.2 percent, the first decline in 15 years. Within this category, alumni support decreased by 13.6 percent and appreciated property, such as real estate, stocks and other non-cash assets, showed a 20 percent decrease.

Financial aid totals (including both grants and loans) continue to increase. Students received close to $90 billion in financial aid in 2001-02, an increase of 117 percent over the previous decade. Within the context of total aid, it is important to note a tremendous increase in loan aid versus grant aid; in the past decade, grant aid doubled but loan aid tripled in volume. Resulting effects may be the decision to delay or not go to college, a larger debt load for attendees, delay of or non-graduation, and/or a larger debt load for graduates.

Additionally, several sources have identified a gap in access to information about financial aid, particularly for minority and underprivileged groups. One study showed that 75 percent of young people who could have become college students and did not would have been more likely to attend college if they had received better information about financial aid. Only half of those students were familiar with any financial aid options at all. The gap is the largest in the Hispanic demographic, which is the fastest-growing segment of the population.

An increasingly heterogeneous student population combined with the effects of the Information Revolution necessitate changes in pedagogic philosophies in higher education. Diversity in students’ ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, life experiences, geography and other factors will mean a wide variety of preparedness, learning styles and cultural perspectives. Classroom environments will need to be open to differences and multiple perspectives, which may change the way subjects are taught.

The effects of the aging workforce and the rise of “knowledge jobs” will also affect subjects and methods of teaching in higher education. Job growth in the next 25 years will occur in industries which require some college. These jobs will also require “generalists,” or workers who have a broad base of general knowledge with a specific area of expertise. Therefore, an increased emphasis on the development of the whole student and on critical thinking becomes important.

The pervasiveness of technology in society, and especially in higher education, will directly influence change in teaching methods. Simulations and hands-on activities will make active learning more prevalent. Integration of technology into the learning environment, already common with smart classrooms, campus networks and mobile technology, will continue, expanding to include technologies such as peer-to-peer/chat, streaming video and interactive technology.
WORKFORCE

The fastest growing occupations projected in New York state (2000-2012) are: computer support specialists, computer software engineers (systems software and applications), network and computer systems administrators, medical assistants, database administrators and personal and home care aides.\(^\text{17}\)

As the baby boomer generation begins to retire (the first baby boomers will turn 65 in 2011), the nation will be faced with a rapid and long-term (approximately 18 years) depletion of the skilled workforce. The baby boom generation currently makes up 60 percent of the "prime age workforce," or skilled workers between the ages of 25 and 54. The demographic group which follows is too small to replace the boomers when they retire, causing a predicted shortage in skilled workers, especially in science, engineering and technology fields.\(^\text{18}\)

Over the next decade, approximately 30 percent of job openings will require workers with at least some college\(^\text{19}\), a result of a) depletion of the skilled workforce; b) job creation in professional sectors; and c) the infusion of technology into the workplace.

"Knowledge jobs," or those which require critical thinking skills, general knowledge, familiarity with technology, and therefore some post-secondary education, include white-collar, health care and information technology jobs, and are predicted to grow the most in number in the next ten years.

TECHNOLOGY

As the Information Age progresses, technology continues to become more and more pervasive in everyday life, and especially in education. There are five major societal paradigm shifts that impact the development of technology in the Information Age:

Connectivity—the shift away from a specific location or geography to the ability to connect electronically (or otherwise) at a convenient location.

Though there is still evidence of a socioeconomic “digital divide,” access to technology has increased significantly in the past seven years, resulting in a majority of Americans having access to both computers and the Internet. In 2001, 66 percent of the population had access to a computer and 54 percent had access to the Internet, compared to 54 and 33 percent, respectively, in 1997. Access in instructional classrooms also increased to 92 percent nationwide in 2002 from just 3 percent in 1994.\(^\text{20}\)

It is predicted that in the near future, a substantial number of people will have several devices (computer, PDA, car, cell phone) which will be networked together or to several different places, and each device will become a server.\(^\text{21}\)

Voice over IP, or using the Internet itself as a telephone network, is gaining popularity and has been identified by several sources as a top future trend in technology, for both individual and business use. JetBlue Airways has adopted this technology which helps maintain its industry-leading call-center attrition rate of just 5 percent.\(^\text{22}\)

Mobility—the shift toward the ability to move technology from place to place.
Mobility is a key issue, and the prevalence of WiFi (wireless LANs) and community “hot spots” is increasing. Additionally, in smaller devices such as phones and PDAs, wireless Internet access, text messaging and GPS is becoming standard.\(^{23}\)

Portability—shrinking in size but increasing in capacity. Moore’s Law states that every 18 months, the number of transistors per square inch of integrated circuits doubles. This is ever-apparent with the increasing prevalence of miniature devices such as camera phones and tablet PCs.

Mass Customization—the shift toward the individualization of products at mass production prices. Consumers in the Information Age can expect an increased number of products and processes tailored to their specific needs. Dell Computers led the field in allowing customers to order a computer with exact specifications instead of a few predetermined options.

The continued move toward individualization is typical of post-modern society above and beyond technology. This is most evident in the growing influence of peer-to-peer (P2P) networks, where PCs act as servers and connect to one another to share files independent of a central server. Individuals control their connections and networks.\(^{24}\)

Velocity—the desire for information at a high speed. Instant gratification. The need for high-speed access to the Internet is becoming more and more desirable to consumers as they transfer many of their activities from personal to digital. More people conduct business over the Internet (shopping, meetings, etc.). The shift in Web site design to include more interactive sites using Flash, Java, database technology, streaming audio and video requires more bandwidth. The number of people using the Internet is rapidly rising. As a result, 20 million homes in the United States have broadband connections. With integration of devices in the next wave of change, more bandwidth will be needed, and new technologies making it available will be necessary.\(^{25}\)

Educational technology trends mirror those nationwide, with more reliance on technology in classroom experience, including streaming video and audio and virtual classrooms.\(^{26}\)

**ENERGY**

As the U.S. economy and population grow, the demand for energy will continue to rise. Decreased production of oil and corresponding higher prices, along with stricter federal guidelines for coal emissions, necessitate a paradigm shift with respect to energy consumption—a move toward increased reliance on alternative energy produced from renewable sources such as hydropower, solar energy and wind power.\(^{27}\)

In 2005, the New York State Comptroller estimated that as many as 43,000 jobs would be created in the state if the amount of electricity produced from renewable sources increases from 20 to 25 percent by 2013.\(^{28}\)
STATEMENT OF MISSION

Morrisville State College is a public undergraduate institution which exists to offer a high quality educational experience for students leading to associate and baccalaureate degrees by utilizing cutting-edge technology, innovative methods of instruction and an entrepreneurial focus. The college is committed to providing students the knowledge and opportunity to grow intellectually and socially as citizens of the world community.
Morrisville State College was founded in 1908 as a college of agriculture and technology. It became part of the State University of New York in 1948, and has continued to grow while maintaining a commitment to its agricultural and technological roots. A Norwich Campus was opened 30 miles southeast of Morrisville in 1969 to accommodate an under served population in Chenango County.

The college serves students from every county in New York state, and several other states and foreign countries. Most students come from Central New York; a large contingent comes from downstate as well. Most out-of-state enrollees are recruited for a specific and unique academic program such as equine science or automotive technology.

As diverse as the college’s student body is geographically, so too, is it ethnically and culturally. Morrisville State College’s student population serves as a mirror for that of the larger world. The college is committed to instill a sense of civility and personal responsibility in its students as part of its overall mission.

Morrisville State College offers bachelor and associate degrees in 12 career areas: agriculture, communications technologies, computer and information technologies, construction and building, engineering and engineering technologies, equine, health, natural resources and horticulture, hospitality, college and university transfer programs, and transportation technologies. Several certificate programs are also offered at the college, targeted mainly to students who are already employed, but wish to further their careers or obtain training in a specific area. Degree programs are designed to meet the needs of industries in the local, state and national arena.

The college utilizes cutting edge technology with the belief that a high comfort level with technology will be of ultimate benefit to students both in the workplace and in their lives in general. Therefore, the college has committed to becoming an early adopter of technology, evidenced by its four-phase technology plan which includes the integration of laptop computers, wireless technology and cellular phones into the campus culture and the eventual goal of creating an entirely digital environment.

Morrisville State College is focused on teaching and learning, and using innovative methods inside and outside the classroom. The entrepreneurial spirit is encouraged and supported.

Though the college’s main focus is providing education and support students to its students, it also serves as the impetus for economic development in the village of Morrisville, Madison County and the Central New York area. It will continue to investigate and create projects dovetailing with its academic pursuits while providing the region and its inhabitants with feasible opportunities for growth, such as the small-scale food processing plant (Nelson Farms) and the on-campus Agribusiness Incubator.
OUR VISION

Morrisville State College will be driven by Excellence, enhanced by Technology, elevated by Innovation, and inspired by personal Commitment.

The college aspires to the following:

IN 2012, the student body at Morrisville State College will be better prepared for college, committed to civility and respectful of diversity, enrolled in more bachelor degree programs, and highly optimistic and excited about their future.

IN 2012, Morrisville State College’s faculty and staff will be even more committed to teaching, learning, innovation and their students, and excited about the college’s future and their role in moving the institution forward.

IN 2012, the Morrisville State College campus and branch facilities will showcase state-of-the-art buildings and equipment, beautifully designed and maintained landscapes, and a growing reliance on sustainable energy resources.

IN 2012, a strong collaborative college/community relationship will assist in growing businesses and renewing an entrepreneurial spirit in the community.

IN 2012, more alumni will be actively engaged in activities at the college.

IN 2012, employers will seek to employ Morrisville State College graduates because they have technical expertise, professional and leadership skills, and a strong understanding of business principles.
## Strategic Goals

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The goals set out in Morrisville State College’s 2005 - 2012 Strategic Plan are ambitious and reachable.

In order to succeed in today’s ever-changing world, where new technologies are constantly being developed, Morrisville is well-positioned. Its culture of adaptability makes it an excellent breeding ground for innovation. An existing technology strategy puts it ahead of the curve with respect to its competitors. The commitment of its faculty and staff enhance the educational experience for students.

Taking this into account as we look to the future, Morrisville State College again finds itself poised for a period of positive change. New bachelor and associate degree programs which reflect the needs of the current labor market and anticipate those of the future are in development. Corresponding updates to academic facilities are scheduled, along with adjustments to residence halls and student living spaces to accommodate the social needs of the next generation. New technologies will be integrated. A renewed emphasis on building the Morrisville community will be undertaken.

Morrisville State College, like other agriculture and technical colleges, was founded in 1908 as a contributing solution to land vacancy issues with the purpose of training agriculturists. Today, we deal with a different set of challenges: food safety and security, renewable energy, technological growth. Though the issues have changed over the years, the college’s goals remain the same.

Morrisville State College has been successful in achieving the goals set for itself in its previous strategic plan. It now enters a new era--its second century--on track to becoming a nationally recognized college of agriculture and technology.
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