

**West Virginia Northern Community College**

**ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

Effective Date: March 25, 2004

Date Approved by WVNCC Board of Governors: March 25, 2004

Authority Reference: AAUP Statement and HEPC Title 133 Series 9, Section 2

Replaces previous policy dated:

**Rule:** A substantial part of this statement is taken from the AAUP statement as revised June, 1987.

The term “faculty member” refers to both teaching faculty and professional staff of the College.

Faculty members, guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge, recognize the special responsibilities placed upon them. Their primary responsibility to their discipline is to seek and to state the truth as they see it. To this end, they devote their energies to developing and improving their scholarly competence. They accept the obligation to exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge. They practice intellectual honesty. Faculty respect and defend the right of their associates to free inquiry. In the exchange of criticism and ideas, they show respect for the opinions of others.

Teaching faculty are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject.

The faculty of the College encourage the free pursuit of learning in their students. They hold before them the best scholarly and ethical standards of their discipline. The faculty demonstrate respect for students as individuals and adhere to the proper faculty roles as intellectual guides and counselors. The faculty make every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to assure that their evaluations of students reflect each student’s true merit. They respect the

confidential nature of the relationship between faculty and student. They avoid any exploitation, harassment, or discriminatory treatment of students. They acknowledge significant academic or scholarly assistance from students. They protect students' academic freedom as well as their own.

As members of the college community and of the larger social community, faculty members have the rights and obligations of all other citizens. They measure the urgency of these obligations in the light of their responsibility to their discipline, to their students, to their profession, and to the College. When they speak or act as private persons, they avoid creating the impression of speaking or acting for the College. As citizens engaged in a profession that depends upon freedom for its health and integrity, faculty have a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom and its concomitant responsibilities.