

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION**

**COMMITTEE:** Strategic Planning

**NO.:** SPC 19-06

**COMMITTEE DATE:** April 30, 2019

**BOARD DATE:** May 7, 2019

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**APPROVAL OF WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves **the Westfield State University** revised mission statement to read as follows:

Westfield State University is a public institution offering accessible quality undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional studies. Our welcoming community focuses on student engagement and success. We contribute to the economic, social and cultural growth of the northeast region by developing the knowledge, skills, and character essential for students to become responsible leaders and engaged citizens.

The Board further authorizes the Commissioner to forward the same to the Secretary of Education, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 7.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 7, 9(e), and 22(n)

Contact: Winifred M. Hagan, Ed.D.  
Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Student Success

## **Background**

### **Westfield State University Mission Statement**

The Board of Higher Education (BHE) is responsible for reviewing and approving institutional mission statements. M.G.L. c. 15A, §9(e) and §22[n].

During September 2017 and at the outset to the Westfield State University (Westfield) strategic planning process it was decided that a focused review of the mission statement would be part of the strategic plan.

### **Current and New Mission Statements**

*Westfield's current Mission Statement reads as follows:*

Westfield State University fosters intellectual curiosity, encourages critical thinking, inspires civic engagement, and promotes a global perspective. A public teaching institution offering quality programs in the liberal arts and sciences with complementing professional studies curricula, we are grounded in a diverse and welcoming community. Westfield State develops the knowledge, skills, and character essential for students to reach their full potential and become responsible leaders in society. We contribute to the economic, social, cultural vitality of the region.

*Westfield's proposed Mission Statement, which was unanimously approved by the campus Board of Trustees on February 7, 2019, reads as follows:*

Westfield State University is a public institution offering accessible quality undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional studies. Our welcoming community focuses on student engagement and success. We contribute to the economic, social and cultural growth of the northeast region by developing the knowledge, skills, and character essential for students to become responsible leaders and engaged citizens.

### **Rationale for Change**

During the planning process Westfield sought to maintain the essential elements of the university's work as a public comprehensive institution, and name as central, its commitment to student success. Consequently, Westfield proposes that the mission statement be refined rather than significantly altered.