

Business Plan

2021—2023

Excellence and Innovation in Agricultural Education



WA COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE - HARVEY
An Independent Public School



BUSINESS PLAN 2021—2023

College Context

The Western Australia College of Agriculture—Harvey has a long standing reputation for excellence and a history of producing fine, young citizens.

The College is situated on the foothills of the Darling Scarp just south of the town of Harvey. The 940 ha College farm, spread across two sites, boasts some of the most productive irrigated and dry land available in the state, enabling a diverse range of agricultural enterprises including beef, dairy, sheep and horticulture.

The College has emerged to be a leading provider of agriculture and related trades training and education. It is well resourced with exceptional residential, trades, farm, recreational and classroom facilities which collectively provide a first class living and learning environment.

Students study under the Australian Qualifications Framework to achieve qualifications that are nationally recognised and articulate to direct employment, further study and apprenticeships. Certificates up to level III are provided using a unique delivery methodology which provides a blend of knowledge and practical skill development with a strong focus on hands-on learning in an industry relevant environment. Students also undertake State-based courses in order to achieve the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE). Tertiary aspirants can choose a pathway leading to the achievement of an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

At the College there are vast opportunities that enhance student outcomes, both academically and socially. A range of recreational activities are available after hours and provide enriching experiences for students.

Value adding to farm produce and “paddock to plate” principles are encouraged with the use of an onsite butcher shop, milk processing facility and horticultural production storage and packaging. Sustainable practices and emerging technologies are integrated across the College.

Graduates from the College find themselves highly employable in a range of agricultural and other industries due to their wide-ranging skill base and well-developed work ethic. Many graduates are successful in obtaining apprenticeships across a broad range of industry areas. A number of students seek Tertiary studies upon leaving the College.

The WA College of Agriculture—Harvey is well prepared to embrace the opportunities and challenges of a rapidly changing world. In a unique agricultural setting we set high expectations, encourage innovation and always seek ways to improve.

This 2021—2023 Business Plan provides strategic direction for the College. It connects the Department of Education strategic plan and annual Focus documents with various College operational plans and is reviewed annually to ensure it continues to meet the needs of our students and the broader community. We thank the support of staff, our Advisory Committees and the College Board for their input into ensuring that the WA College of Agriculture Harvey continues to perform at a high level.



Vision

Excellence and Innovation in Agricultural Education

Purpose

To develop work ready, competent and qualified young adults for Agricultural and related industries.

To enhance students' social skills, enabling them to interact respectfully with others.

To promote the importance of learning and continuous improvement.

Our Values

RESPECT Treat others with care and courtesy

We believe a respectful College community is essential to achieving success. Through positive interactions and conduct, we foster respectful relationships between staff, students, families and our wider College community.

ASPIRATION Achieve your best

We encourage all our students to know their strengths and we strive to ensure that every student stays focused and works to the best of their ability to maximise their outcomes from the College.

SAFETY Work safe and be safe

We believe preventative measures and careful mentoring fosters a healthy and safe environment. We aim to create an environment where people feel safe both physically and socially.



Effective Students

- ◇ We are passionate in our endeavours to ensure that we equip our students to be able to respond to future challenges and opportunities.
- ◇ We want every student to be active participants in their learning and to achieve their potential.
- ◇ We want every student to make a smooth transition from school into employment, apprenticeships or further study.

We will

- ◇ Maintain a strong focus on developing effective literacy and numeracy skills.
- ◇ Support students to be self-directed learners with a strong work ethic.
- ◇ Get to know each of our students and how best they learn. Use data to track individual student progress, provide timely feedback and intervene where necessary to ensure they reach their potential.
- ◇ Provide opportunities for students to develop citizenship and leadership skills.
- ◇ Provide pathways that clearly articulate to employment and further education/training.
- ◇ Provide a range of learning areas and delivery methods to engage students to perform at their best.

Measures of success and targets

- ◇ 100% students achieve WACE.
- ◇ 10% students undertaking the ATAR Pathway.
- ◇ 50% of ATAR Pathway students to achieve an ATAR greater than 70.
- ◇ 100% students achieve Certificate II in Agriculture, plus another four full Certificate II or III qualifications.
- ◇ 100% students achieve their base Trades qualifications after completing two semesters.
- ◇ 95% Trades Focus students achieve identified higher level qualifications in their option area/s.
- ◇ 95% of Farm Focus students select Certificate III in Agriculture.
- ◇ 100% of students selecting Certificate III in Agriculture achieve the qualification.
- ◇ 100% of students complete at least one community service or volunteer activity each year.
- ◇ Student NSOS survey data will reflect >90% positive satisfaction in all measures.
- ◇ Aboriginal students' performance comparable with non-Aboriginal on all measures of performance.
- ◇ 100% graduates engaged in further study or employment by March the year after leaving school.

Effective Staff

- ◇ We focus on ensuring our staff are well qualified and capable for their job role.
- ◇ We value whole school collaborative approaches to ensure collegiate support and consistency across all sectors of the College.
- ◇ We are committed to the Vision, Purpose and Values of the College.

We will

- ◇ Provide staff with access to high quality professional learning opportunities.
- ◇ Adopt whole school approach to strengthen teaching, learning and leadership.
- ◇ Ensure all staff who deal directly with students have the tools to understand adolescent behaviour and common needs.
- ◇ Identify and develop staff with aspiration and capacity to take on leadership roles.
- ◇ Strengthen the collaboration between sectors of the College and external agencies to improve support for staff and the role they play at the College.
- ◇ Monitor and support the health and wellbeing of staff.
- ◇ Undertake performance management and engage with professional learning.
- ◇ Reflect on our own performance and its impact on student outcomes.

Measures of success and targets

- ◇ 100% of trainers and assessors are involved in at least one Industry Placement Scheme or training opportunity per year to maintain currency.
- ◇ All staff undertake at least one professional learning opportunity in addition to the designated school development days.
- ◇ 100% of staff are compliant with all departmental and school determined mandatory professional learning.
- ◇ All instructional staff engage with networks to support their delivery and assessment.
- ◇ 100% of instructional staff trained in Classroom Management Strategies or similar as appropriate to their work role.
- ◇ >90% positive responses by staff on NSOS surveys about job satisfaction and general well-being.
- ◇ Positive feedback from parents/community

Effective Learning and Living Environment

- ◇ We are committed to providing a safe, supportive and engaging learning and living environment where students can reach their potential.
- ◇ We value our facilities and we are committed to maintaining them in line with best industry practice.
- ◇ We know that as current land holders we have a responsibility to care for the College property and appreciate the history; particularly the Aboriginal history and connection.

We will

- ◇ Engage with our industry partners to ensure our facilities remain a reflection of current industry practice.
- ◇ Develop and maintain systems that ensure all students and staff are safe and feel supported across the whole College.
- ◇ Identify opportunities and implement strategies to develop STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) skills.
- ◇ Provide opportunities for students to have a strong voice in the college decision making.
- ◇ Conduct a range of extra-curricular activities to add value to the formal curriculum and enhance student outcomes.
- ◇ Engage with the Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework.
- ◇ Seek opportunities to implement environmentally sustainable practices.
- ◇ Continue to enhance the aesthetics and functionality of college facilities.
- ◇ Provide an ordered and stable learning and living environment where students are comfortable to achieve their best

Measures of success and targets

- ◇ Attendance - overall school attendance greater than 90%.
- ◇ Retention – no students leaves the College before the end of Year 12 due to deficiencies in the College.
- ◇ Enrolment data - numbers of applications exceed places available.
- ◇ Student and parent NSOS surveys- minimum 90% positive responses to all survey questions.
- ◇ Operational plans in place for all faculty areas and whole school approaches.
- ◇ Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework- action plan and progression along continuum.
- ◇ All external audits and compliance measures meet expectation.
- ◇ Positive feedback from parents/community.



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