A. Gaston College is an open-door public community college, located in Gaston and Lincoln counties, that promotes student success and lifelong learning through high caliber, affordable, and comprehensive educational programs and services responding to economic and workforce development needs.

B. Activities in Support of the Mission

To accomplish its mission, the College:

1. Provides comprehensive Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree programs designed primarily to prepare students to enter the workforce.

2. Provides diploma and certificate programs consisting of a sequence of courses that frequently can be completed in one year or less by a full-time student. These programs are intended for individuals seeking employment in a specific occupation.

3. Provides Associate in Arts (A.A.), Associate in Science (A.S.), and Associate in Fine Arts (A.F.A.) degree programs primarily designed to prepare students to transfer to a four-year college or university.

4. Provides developmental education to prepare students for entry into a degree, diploma, or certificate program.

5. Provides compensatory education, adult literacy, English as a Second Language, and high school diploma or equivalency for individuals seeking to improve basic skills, complete high school requirements, prepare for the workforce, or enter post-secondary education.

6. Provides continuing education programs for individual personal and professional development and for employee education and training to satisfy the skill development needs of business, industry, and public agencies.

7. Assures quality in all educational programs by measuring performance on a set of well-established criteria and by identifying and analyzing program needs.

8. Assures quality instruction by establishing effective, innovative, and professional teaching practices; by frequent evaluation of instructor effectiveness, and by updating methods, materials, equipment, and facilities.
9. Provides support services for all students, including specialized services for the disadvantaged, the handicapped, and other special needs groups to enable student success.

10. Promotes positive relationships with public and private schools, colleges and universities, and with business and industry.

11. Provides services which support community economic, educational, and cultural efforts and which promote cooperative relationships with the community.

12. Promotes accessibility to educational programs through off-campus offerings and through distance learning opportunities.