

Summary: Fulfilling the Mission

(The) Urban College of Boston is one of the most fascinating institutions around—the way it has formed and the mission it has developed. It fills a real niche and has the opportunity to do some groundbreaking things.

2005 Strategic Plan community comment, September 2005

The Urban College of Boston serves a unique purpose in the greater Boston educational landscape. The self-study process has reminded everyone in the UCB community that the College successfully:

- Performs a mission of thoroughly unique heritage and content;
- Serves an unusually diverse population, well represented by first generation families and non-native English speakers, including UCB's designation as an Hispanic-Serving institution, that would not normally consider a college education;
- Draws from the robust Boston area faculty pool and retains its recruits;
- Offers an Early Childhood Education program of outstanding reputation;
- Provides academic programs that are accessible in the full-spectrum sense of the word: convenient location, affordability, physical and psychological safety for its students pedagogy that supports non-traditional students and adult learners – all in an environment of high integrity;
- Consistently generates and uses information for appraisal/assessment and planning; and
- Provides real opportunities for students to continue their education at local four-year institutions through articulation agreements and to advance in their careers through professional community links – fulfilling the mission.

At the same time, the self-study process has reminded us all of areas that need attention. Primarily, at this stage in its development, Urban College must focus on assessment mechanisms to continuously evaluate the effectiveness of its programs. The College must continue to be aggressive in providing the most up-to-date physical, technological and informational resources within the construct of the College's mission. Urban College must also look for ways to improve communication within the entire college community.

Urban College has changed my life. It has opened doors for me that I thought could not be opened. It was financially affordable... It enhanced my education to such an extent that I will graduate from Springfield College in May 06 with my bachelor's degree. Thank you.

Alumni Community Survey Questionnaire, September 2005

