

RUST COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

RUST COLLEGE is a historically Black, coeducational, senior liberal arts college founded in 1866 by the Freedman's Aid Society of The Methodist Episcopal Church. The College is related to the United Methodist Church, and dedicated to serve students with a variety of academic preparations, through instruction in the humanities, social and behavioral sciences, natural science, business, technology and education. Rust College recognizes the three-fold functions of education as being teaching, research and community service. Its primary mission however, is teaching. It offers a well-rounded program designed to acquaint students with cultural, moral, and spiritual values, both in theory and in practice. Rust College provides an opportunity for education to all, regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin or ethnic background.

PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

In the early history of Rust College, its first president, the Reverend A.C. McDonald, stated the purpose of Rust College as follows:

It is our aim to not do hot-house work, seeking to hurry students through a college curriculum, as do many mushroom schools in the South, sending them into the battle of life only to disgrace themselves and bring reproach upon the cause of education at large, but take the by far more difficult and tedious plan of trying to lay well a foundation for a broad, thorough, and practical education, such as shall fit our pupils for long lives of usefulness to themselves, their race, and the church.

President McDonald gave the criterion for testing this purpose: "By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them," which is the motto of Rust College, and a good criterion for its purpose. While the elements of the purpose as originally stated by President McDonald remain in essence, the scope and expression of the purpose have expanded and must be expressed in terms of complexities and demands of education in a more complex and sophisticated society.

GENERAL INSTITUTIONAL GOALS

2009 - 2014

1. To improve the institutional model for assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of the college in relationship to its purpose and mission;
2. To strengthen the college's overall academic program in teaching, research and community service;
3. To fully institutionalize an enrollment management system aimed at the recruitment, retention and graduation of top quality students;

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Goals

- 3.1 To identify and modify institutional attitudes and practices that may cause students to feel disengaged from the institution;
- 3.2 To increase student engagement with the curriculum, the advising process, and student services during the entire matriculation to graduation;
- 3.3 To maintain an environment that will enhance the intellectual life of the

campus and foster opportunities for community service that will in turn result in lifelong learning and service.

4. To stabilize full-time enrollment at 1,000;

5. To improve the system for acquiring and managing the College's fiscal resources to include a projected increase in permanent endowment to \$30 million;

6. To improve the college's technologies in order to meet the needs of all academic and administrative areas. Students with varied academic achievement, cultural backgrounds and socioeconomic status attend Rust College. The college has, therefore, the responsibility to provide educational experiences which will provide challenge to the gifted and will also offer adequate opportunities for the under-achiever to make up his or her academic deficiencies and to benefit from a college education. Traditionally a liberal arts institution, Rust College provides programs for students to prepare for professional and graduate study, for community service, and for employment in various fields. The total environment and educational programs have been geared to provide orientation for community service, leadership and human relations.