

SEVEN WORDS THAT DEFINE THE MISSION STATEMENT OF AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION WITH A CHRISTIAN IDENTITY

The fundamental values that inspire the life of an educational, aid or charitable institution form its ethos. When it comes time to reflect on these fundamental principles in order to prepare a document or collection of documents that describe this ethos, in order to communicate it to the organization's various publics, seven key words that define it can be of use.

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Open

The mission statement is a starting point, a shared space where all who wish to form a part of it can come together, and from which each marks his or her own path. By clearly presenting its own identity, it invites the construction of a common framework in service of society. It is not a box that confines, but rather a base from which everyone constructs together a positive proposition. From this perspective, the mission statement is an invitation rather than an imposition.

Ecological

The mission statement defines the relationship between the people who form the organization, with each other and with the environment. It is the heart of the value proposition - the most attractive feature of an organization - that diverse people join forces to carry out a mission in the service of society. It is a source of richness and plurality for its environment: its contribution to social biodiversity.

Enlightening

The mission statement clearly establishes the institution's principles of thought and action, and by so doing, serves to shape the expectations of those who take an interest in it.

Clearly and explicitly laying out the fundamental principles contributes to consistency, illuminates decision making and problem solving and inspires projects.

Relational

By delving into the identity and mission, the mission statement shapes and motivates interpersonal and institutional relationships. It serves as a lighthouse that shines on all realities and relationships; and as a bridge that stimulates the participation and mutual enrichment of different people with their own perspectives and approaches. It promotes dialogue, and, in its breadth, offers a platform upon which to work with others on shared problems.

Inspirational

The mission statement demonstrates everything the institution can bring to the service of society. It is a source of energy; it expands the horizons in which one can develop. It is idealistic in its formulation, and realistic and motivating in its performance potential for the institution's day-to-day workings. It should not be understood as limiting, but rather as a call for each person to develop the best in himself or herself in the service of others. It is not a wall but rather a wide path that allows moving faster towards a shared goal.

Necessary

The mission statement is necessary to sustain the organization's identity over time, for the consistency of its government, and for the sustainable development of its mission. It is necessary for the life of institutions, of people, of ideas and of projects.

Dynamic

The mission statement is a foundation for shared effort. It is not an arrival point, but rather a continual journey that becomes ever deeper and wider. A heritage that is not limited to a few, it belongs to all who wish to join in the institution's values and mission. At each point in time and specific situation, it serves to aid and inspire the behavior of the institution and its people.