Three Rivers College has a 2020 Vision for the future. 2020 Vision is the name of the five-year strategic plan that has been adopted by the Board of Trustees.

The plan, which sets the direction of the college for the next five years, was truly a collegewide effort, said Three Rivers President Dr. Wesley Payne.

A 46-person Strategic Planning Steering Committee, led by Dean of Institutional Effectiveness Dr. Maribeth Payne, spent every Friday afternoon for four months working on the plan. This included reviewing the efforts of the past five years; examining the college's strengths, weaknesses, challenges and opportunities; and strategizing about our future. Input was gathered from college faculty and staff, students, and partners in the communities we serve.

"It was an insightful process," said committee member Justin Hoggard, Department Chair for Social Sciences and Director of the Title III Program. “We have the opportunity to improve everything we do."

“Throughout the creation of the plan, the focus was on what will benefit students,” said committee member Debbie Young, Coordinator of Library Administrative Services.

The 2020 Vision plan will be used to guide all college budget managers to create division and department goals for 2015-16.

Three Rivers College’s 2020 Vision is made up of the following themes:

- **Excellent Student Service.** The college will continue to make student success the top priority as we provide open access to high-quality education at a reasonable cost. Therefore, we must continue to employ effective processes and develop better systems to serve our students efficiently.

- **Team Member Development.** The college will build a team of highly skilled and trained individuals leading to an improved student learning culture, excellent services, and more efficient operations.

- **Resource Development.** The college will seek alternative funding sources and utilize resources in a responsible manner.

- **Student Enrollment, Retention and Transfer.** The college will continue to develop and improve student retention initiatives that align with a supportive infrastructure to provide the best possible outcome for our students to set and achieve their goals.

- **High-Quality Instruction.** The college will continue to shape its culture by making learning our first priority and the driving force behind all initiatives, decisions, and policy development.

- **Learning Environment.** The college will create a dynamic, safe, and caring student-first physical learning environment that promotes open access to opportunities for all students of diverse backgrounds and ensures their preparation for success in a global world.
Three Rivers Spring enrollment down slightly

Focus will shift to recruitment of working adults, retention

Three Rivers’ enrollment of 3,601 students on the first day of the Spring semester was down about 5 percent from last year but was about 2 percent ahead of the national average decrease.

“Community college enrollment often slips when the economy improves,” said Three Rivers President Dr. Wesley Payne. “When people can find jobs, they often will put their education on hold.”

Plans are to focus on recruitment of working adults, as well as traditional students who go to college directly from high school.

This means a heavier promotion of the college’s many career-technical programs. The college also will continue to develop evening programs, such as the new Evening Advantage program, geared toward working adults.

In addition, the college has efforts underway that focus on retaining students through intensive advising, enhancing student support programs, and following up with students who stop going to class.

The new Three Rivers-Sikeston opens in new facility

Ashley Miles ushered in a new era for Three Rivers-Sikeston. She was the first student served in the new facility at 1400 S. Main.

Staff moved into the 36,000-square-foot Sikeston Instructional Building in December and classes began there January 12.

“Everyone is impressed with the new building,” said Mike Witt, Coordinator of Three Rivers-Sikeston.

The building features 17 classrooms, including three ITV rooms, four computer labs, and two science labs, plus a Learning Resource Center and LPN-to-RN Bridge Program facilities with a state-of-the-art simulation lab. There is also an auditorium/community meeting room that doubles as a 770-person storm shelter.

“The new facility will provide more opportunities for the college to serve the community,” said Three Rivers-Sikeston Director Missy Marshall. “We will be able to educate more students; offer more classes, programs and degrees; increase workforce training; and provide more services to the community.”

A ribbon cutting for the new building will be held this spring.

For more information about Three Rivers-Sikeston, call 573-472-5223; or go online to trcc.edu.
Coach Bess sets record with 1,200th win

_Ceremony to recognize achievement will be February 7_

Congratulations to Raiders Basketball Coach Gene Bess for surpassing the 1,200 wins mark.

Bess cemented his place in basketball history with a win over State Fair Community College on January 8. He is continuing his winning ways as the season continues into February.

"I feel overwhelmed but very proud to be part of the team that allowed me to reach this milestone," said Bess. "It's an amazing achievement and one that has been made possible by the extraordinary players, coaches, and supporters I've been able to work with here at Three Rivers."

Bess has coached men's basketball at Three Rivers for more than 40 years. He has led the Raiders to two NJCAA national championships in 1979 and 1992.

Bess now holds the record for most wins by a single coach in all of college basketball. He has held the record for most wins in junior college basketball since 2006, and he is eclipsed by only four coaches in the NBA. He has been inducted into the National Junior College Hall of Fame, was twice named NJCAA's Coach of the Year, and has never had a losing season.

"Three Rivers is deeply honored to have been host to Coach Bess' extraordinary career," said Dr. Wesley Payne, President of Three Rivers College. "He has left an indelible mark on the careers of hundreds of players, as well as the lives of thousands of students and fans. His dedication to his sport and to this college is nothing short of amazing."

Bess, of course, isn’t finished yet. When asked how it felt to win 1,200 games he replied not as good as it will feel winning number 1,201.

A ceremony to recognize Bess and his historic place in basketball history will be held at the Bess Activity Center after the men’s game on February 7.

Raider Reunion to honor past athletes February 7

We're starting a new tradition at Three Rivers with Raider Reunion, a celebration of our alumni across the years! This year we're honoring our athletics alumni with a special event on February 7 at the Bess Activity Center.

At the event, which will be held in conjunction with the February 7 Raiders and Lady Raiders basketball games, the college will honor all former team members of Men's and Women's Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Volleyball, Spirit Squads, and Rodeo.

There will be a special ceremony to honor the late Cheri Ramsey, longtime cheer coach, during the halftime of the men's game.

Raider Reunion participants get free admission to the 5 p.m. Women's Basketball game (Pink Out Game) and 7 p.m. Men's Basketball game, plus there will be activities, a hospitality room and more.

If you attended Three Rivers and especially if you were involved in athletics here, plan to attend Raider Reunion. You can find more information and join the event at facebook.com/threeriverscollege/events.

Support Raiders at home games

_Raiders Basketball Home Games_
7 pm Feb. 7 vs. State Fair
7 pm Feb. 14 vs. Mineral Area
7 pm Feb. 17 vs. MSU-West Plains
Feb. 24 Regional quarterfinals TBA

_Lady Raiders Basketball Home Games_
2 pm Feb. 4 vs. Jefferson
5 pm Feb. 7 vs. State Fair
Feb. 24 Regional playoffs, TBA

_Raiders Baseball Home Games_
Noon Feb. 14 vs. Kishwaukee
Noon Feb. 15 vs. Kishwaukee
Noon Feb. 17 vs. Dyersburg State
EMS/Paramedic Programs receive certificate

Three Rivers’ EMS and Paramedic programs have received a renewal of their certificate of accreditation from the Missouri Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and are just one step away from full accreditation.

The programs received temporary accreditation status from the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (COAEMSP) in December 2012. We have been working since then to complete the rigorous accreditation process, said Tami Cunningham, EMS Coordinator for the college.

“We’re very proud of this accomplishment with the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services,” said Cunningham. “We now have only one step left to complete our full accreditation status.”

Satisfying accreditation standards has required the college to provide hundreds of pages of documentation, program and student records, and to create a curriculum that meets national standards, among other goals.

The last step is a site visit from COAEMSP to see that the qualifications for full accreditation have been met, Cunningham said.

“I’m confident that we’ll meet all of COAEMSP’s standards when they visit in May,” said Cunningham. “Three Rivers is fully committed to providing the highest quality instruction, and I believe that the site visit will confirm that.”

Paramedic students practice moving a patient. The program prepares students in the fast-paced work of emergency medical services.

The Three Rivers Paramedic and Emergency Medical Services Programs train students for careers in the fast-paced work of emergency medical services. The college offers degree and certificate programs that prepare students for licensure by examination as an EMT-Basic and as a Paramedic, as well as a course for First Responders.

For more information on the EMS and Paramedic Programs at Three Rivers, contact Tami Cunningham at tcunningham@trcc.edu.

Education students learn from ‘Leader in Me’ demonstration

The Three Rivers chapter of the Student-Missouri State Teacher's Association (S-MSTA) hosted students from Eugene Field Elementary in Poplar Bluff for a demonstration of the school's "Leader in Me" program.

The third- and fourth-grade students provided a presentation on the program, which is based on Stephen Covey's bestselling book The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. The students also gave examples of how they have applied the principles of the “Leader in Me” program in everyday life.

In addition, teachers and administrators from Eugene Field gave first-hand accounts of how they've implemented the “Leader in Me” program in their classrooms. They said program results they have seen include increases in attendance and test scores and decreases in behavior issues.

“This was a fantastic learning opportunity for our Education students,” said Madawn Traxel, Coordinator of Teacher Education at Three Rivers and sponsor of the college's S-MSTA chapter.

“Hopefully our students can bring the principles of “Leader in Me” to their classrooms after they graduate.”

For more information on Three Rivers’ Teacher Education Program, contact Madawn Traxel at mtraxel@trcc.edu or 573-840-9001.

Three Rivers-Sikeston to hold Teacher Education Information Night

Those interested in a career as a teacher can learn about the education profession and how to get started during a Teacher Education Information Night at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 26 at Three Rivers-Sikeston, 1400 S. Main.

Those attending will receive information about the teaching profession, program requirements, the availability of financial aid and the transfer process to a four-year university after completing the teacher education program at Three Rivers.

According to the Missouri Department of Economic Development, the state will require 23,000 new teachers between now and 2020, with an average salary of $43,000. Teaching jobs do require a four-year degree, Traxel said, but with the freshman and sophomore courses offered at Three Rivers and the ease of transfer to area colleges, it’s now possible to obtain a teaching degree quickly, affordably, and efficiently.

For more information, call Traxel at 573-840-9001 or Three Rivers Sikeston at 573-472-5223.
Students experience disaster scene at Mass Casualty event

A major earthquake, a collapsed building, and 58 injured people. Those were the scenarios that Nursing and Allied Health students dealt with during Three Rivers College’s annual Fall Mass Casualty training event held on the Poplar Bluff Campus.

From treating victims at the scene, to preparing the injured for transport, to triaging patients in the emergency room, Nursing, EMS, and Paramedic students got real world training in handling emergency situations. Also put to the test were students in the college’s Fire Science and Law Enforcement Programs and the Campus Public Safety Department.

The training focused on realism, and students served in leadership and command/control positions.

The training allows our Three Rivers students to be more prepared for jobs they will go on to pursue after graduation, said Training Event Coordinator Michael Willis.

Willis said this training event would not have been possible without the participation of and the amazing partnership we have with area medical and emergency response agencies, including Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center, John J. Pershing Veterans Administration Medical Center, Black River Medical Center, Poplar Bluff Police Department, Butler County Sheriff’s Department, Butler County Fire Protection District, Ripley County Ambulance Service, Butler County Ambulance Service, Rural/Metro Ambulance Service, and Air Evac Lifeteam.

For information on Three Rivers Nursing and Allied Health programs, call 573-840-9672.
Three Rivers hosted state legislators from throughout the college’s 15-county service area at a Legislative Roundtable to discuss higher education issues, how Three Rivers is benefiting the area, and the needs of the college.

“We are fortunate that our legislators are so accessible and willing to listen,” said Three Rivers President Dr. Wesley Payne in his welcome.

Most of those attending have a connection to the college, including Rep. Todd Richardson, an alumni; Rep. Steve Cookson, an alumni and former Three Rivers Trustee; Tila Hubrecht, whose daughters are Three Rivers students; and Sen. Mike Cunningham and Reps. Kathy Swan, Donna Lichtenegger, Andrew McDaniel, and Holly Rehder, who all have Three Rivers locations in their districts.

“As an open access community college, we serve all levels of students from the bottom of the Bootheel to Willow Springs, and it’s a task we do with great pride,” Payne said. “If a student has a desire to pursue an education and a better life, we are here to help.”

Chief Financial Officer Charlotte Eubank said Three Rivers appreciates the bond issue and appropriations passed for deferred maintenance at Missouri’s community colleges. She assured the legislators that Three Rivers will make the most of the funds.

Payne pointed out that a recent remodel to locate all student services offices in the Westover Building would have cost $750,000 if outsourced. Using our own maintenance staff, Three Rivers did it for about $17,000.

Dean of Academic Instruction Dr. Mary Lou Brown spoke on the development of Evening Advantage, which helps working adults efficiently move toward completion.

Dean of Career Education and Workforce Development Dr. Brenda Russell described the college’s efforts to develop cutting-edge technical programs, including Precision Welding, Precision Agriculture, and Advanced Manufacturing.

Dean of Student Services Ann Matthews explained that her department’s new career services coordinator will work with area employers on finding the skilled workers they need.

Dean of Institutional Effectiveness Dr. Maribeth Payne discussed 2020 Vision, the college’s new strategic plan, and new mission statement.

Cookson commended the college for the work we do to improve this region economically and educationally.

“Education is so important to this part of the state,” he said. “Anything that Three Rivers needs, we’ll work hard to accommodate.”
December Employee Spotlight: We Are In This Together

Melissa Woolard  
Human Resources Specialist  
Years at Three Rivers: 20  
Favorite thing about working here: The family dynamic and support system.  
Most proud of: Playing a part in the extraordinary growth of the college.  
Melissa works with employees from across the college on human resources issues and is committed and detail-oriented in everything she does.

Joyce Rehkop  
Instructor of Agriculture & Forestry  
Years at Three Rivers: 22  
Favorite thing about working here: The relationships formed with coworkers and students.  
Most proud of: Seeing former students taking on leadership roles.  
Joyce loves that as an instructor for a career-technical program she can build one-on-one relationships with her students that last a lifetime.

Will Dougherty  
Financial Aid Verification Specialist  
Years at Three Rivers: 5  
Favorite thing about working here: The feeling of teamwork and the college culture.  
Most proud of: Working on document imaging through ImageNow software.  
The verification process generates a great deal of paperwork and emotions, and Will does a great job of keeping the process moving forward.

January Employee Spotlight: We Are In This Together

Sandra Ward  
Instructor of English  
Years at Three Rivers: 6  
Favorite thing about working here: Seeing students succeed and develop self-confidence.  
Most proud of: Seeing students go from Transitional classes to graduation.  
Sandra took a leading role in developing the college’s Transitional classes and helps lead the Write conference for English full-time and adjunct faculty members.

Willie Hilburn  
Athletics Facilities & Equipment Manager  
Years at Three Rivers: 11  
Favorite thing about working here: The traditions and the history of the college.  
Most proud of: How far we’ve grown and expanded during the past decade.  
Willie makes sure that all the events at the Bess Activity Center go smoothly for spectators, which impacts the way the community sees us.

Barb Stiriz  
Administrative Assistant, Campus Safety & Maintenance  
Years at Three Rivers: 13  
Favorite thing about working here: Working with dedicated, terrific people.  
Most proud of: Encouraging people to get a degree at Three Rivers.  
Barb takes care of administrative work so our officers can concentrate on campus safety and maintenance crews can concentrate on fixing things.

Hood elected MACT Vice President

Jennifer Hood, administrative assistant for Three Rivers’ Workforce Development Department, has been elected Vice President of the Missouri Association for Customized Training, an organization for those who administer and deliver customized workforce training.

“I’m honored to represent Three Rivers and Southeast Missouri as an officer of an organization that keeps Missouri’s economy growing and driving forward,” said Hood, who helps coordinate the college’s workforce training programs.

Three Rivers administers and provides training for dozens of grant-funded training programs for employers throughout the region, including Noranda and SRG Global.

For more information on Career Education & Workforce Development programs and customized training opportunities, call 573-840-9682.
Emperor’s New Clothes at Tinnin Center March 1

“The Emperor’s New Clothes,” a musical based on the story by Hans Christian Andersen, sponsored by the Daily American Republic, will come to the Tinnin Fine Arts Center and area schools as part of the Patrons of the Arts 2014-15 season.

The public performance by the Imaginary Theatre Company of St. Louis will be at the Tinnin Center in Poplar Bluff on Sunday, March 1, at 2 p.m. Admission for this show is $5 per person.

The play also will be performed at schools across the region March 2-5. It will be provided to students at no charge thanks to sponsors: Carrie Yanson, Scott & Karen Matthews, Sikeston Rehab, and AA Mini Storage, Sikeston; NovaCopy, First National Bank, Harry Blackwell, and Dr. Don Hamra D.D.S., Malden; Walmart, Kennett; Southern Bank, First National Bank, Dexter Lion’s Club, Dexter Kiwanis Club, and Dexter Elks, Dexter; Terry Newton Shelter Insurance, Kids on the Move, and South Central Education Consortium, Willow Springs; and Heartland Furniture & Appliance, B&E Smith Investment LLC, AW & Cheri Cook, Keith Mahal, Norris Insurance Agency, Edward Seitz, Piedmont Walmart, Ellinghouse Publishing Co., Americare at Clark’s Mountain, Peoples Community Bank, Rotary Club of Piedmont, First Midwest Bank, and Hackworth, Hackworth & Ferguson, Piedmont.

This child-oriented production uses songs and humor to tell the tale of a vain emperor who is taught a lesson in humility by his clever wife.

Upcoming shows at the Tinnin Center include the Russian National Ballet performing “Cinderalla” at 7 p.m. March 19 and “An Evening with Mark Russell” at 7 p.m. April 23. Tickets for both shows are $10 each.

Buy tickets online at trcc.edu/tinnin or, two weeks prior to each show, at the Poplar Bluff Chamber, Dexter Chamber, and college Financial Services office. Tickets are sold at the door, as available.

Center Stage to perform “Doubt”

Center Stage, Three Rivers College’s blended community/student theater company, will perform “Doubt: A Parable” at 7 p.m. February 19-21 and 2 p.m. February 22 at the Tinnin Fine Arts Center in Poplar Bluff.

Written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright John Patrick Shanley, “Doubt” is about a strict Catholic nun who suspects her parish’s priest of wrongdoing. “Doubt” was adapted to film in 2008, featuring an award-winning performance by Meryl Streep.

Tickets are $10, or $5 with a valid Three Rivers student ID and are available at the Poplar Bluff Chamber, Financial Services office at the Poplar Bluff Campus, or at the door.

Center Stage brings together students, college employees, and community members to provide local entertainment and hands-on experience for students interested in the dramatic arts.

The Center Stage season will continue April 16-19 with “Oklahomal,” a co-production with the Three Rivers Music Department.

For more information on Center Stage and the college’s performing arts program, contact Tim Thompson at 573-840-9648 or tthompson@trcc.edu.