



P O L K S T A T E C O L L E G E

I. Purpose

The purpose of this statement is to demonstrate that Polk State College fulfills its educational mission in part by maintaining institutional neutrality on matters unrelated to its mission and operations while fostering freedom of inquiry, intellectual diversity, and civil discourse among students, faculty, staff, and the broader College community.

II. Policy

Given its mission of providing accessible, affordable, high-quality higher education, and workforce training, Polk State College fosters an environment of free inquiry, intellectual exploration, and the open exchange of ideas. As a public state college serving a broad community, the College is neutral and avoids actions that may have the unintended consequences of discouraging dialogue or moderating the expression of differing viewpoints.

Therefore, Polk State and its operating units generally will not take official positions or make official statements on matters unrelated to the College's mission and general operations so as not to undermine freedom of thought or discourage personal expression. However, the College may speak out when an issue is in violation of the law, affects its educational purpose, how it operates, or the safety of students, faculty, and staff.

Members of the College community are encouraged to engage one another with civility and a willingness to consider differing perspectives.

Polk State is committed to preparing students for success in higher education, the workforce, and civic life. Students, faculty, and staff share responsibility for engaging in civil discourse by creating a learning and working environment in which ideas may be explored, questioned, and debated in a manner that promotes active listening, mutual respect, exchange of ideas, intellectual growth, the dignity of all viewpoints, and an openness to varied perspectives.