How does the Community Conversation connect with the bigger picture?

2017
Champlain College undertakes an extensive review of and update to the 2020 Strategic Plan, positioning us until the next strategic plan is developed.

January 2018
At Champlain’s Town Hall meeting, President Laackman invites the entire community to begin a conversation to reimagine Champlain in the future.

June 2018
A group of 50 Champlain College students, faculty, staff, trustees and alumni explores how to think about Champlain as a positive organization, in the context of of the World Positive Education Accelerator (WPEA), an international conference held in Fort Worth, TX, funded by the Stiller Family Foundation grant. The group develops a draft aspirational statement and identifies five areas of focus for Champlain to consider.

October 2018
Champlain hosts “A Community Conversation” to engage in discussions about A New Vision for Champlain College, continue the work started at the WPEA, and lay the foundation for the next strategic plan.

2019
The Champlain community continues the strategic planning process and ultimately a new strategic plan is presented to the Board of Trustees.
What will we do October 11 and 12?
As a whole organization, with both internal and external members, we will meet together in the spirit of supporting and enhancing a thriving Champlain Community as we lay the foundation for our future.

We encourage everyone to take part in any or all opportunities for engagement:

Morning Session at the Champlain Expo: A New Vision
Afternoon Session at the Champlain Expo: #AccomplishAnything
All Day Friday at the Champlain Expo: Let Us Dare
Community Conversation Activities: On campus in the Champlain Room on Thursday and on your computer both days.
Synchronous Event Streaming: In the Champlain Room on Thursday, in the Alumni Auditorium on Friday, and on your computer both days.

More information is available about all of these opportunities in the invitation and RSVP form.

What took place at the WPEA in June in Texas?
About 50 Champlain community members including staff, faculty, trustees, students, and alumni attended a four-day conference. During the first two days, attendees explored multiple sessions on topics such as strengths-based education, successes at K-12 schools, and developing character strengths. During the second two days, Champlain attendees moved to a different setting in the convention center and worked with facilitator Joan McArthur-Blair to focus on what we learned and how it might help frame the future of Champlain. From that work, the starting points for the Community Conversation were developed.

What are the starting points for our Community Conversation?
Current draft of aspirational statement:
Let us dare to cultivate a flourishing community of colleagues who work together to enable every student to thrive in their professional and personal lives.

Draft areas of focus for the next strategic plan: academics, well-being, social, thriving culture, and ecosystem (policies, procedures, and more).

How is this all related to Appreciative Inquiry?
As international leaders in Appreciative Inquiry, our Champlain College organizational-level work will be based on the principles of Appreciative Inquiry, although the Community Conversation is not using the Appreciative Inquiry Summit model. If you’d like to know more about Appreciative Inquiry principles and how they might be considered in your role at Champlain College, sign up for an introductory workshop. Please know, you do not need to know anything about Appreciative Inquiry to participate in October.

WHO IS INVOLVED IN A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION?
For this event, we are bringing together a cross-section of as many members of the extended Champlain College community as possible. The more voices and perspectives we have participating in the process, the more the plan will reflect the interests and needs of our whole community.