



HLC Accreditation 2020-2021

Evidence Document

Academic Affairs

Tilford Commission

Tilford Commission Efforts to Support the Recruitment and Retention of a Diverse Faculty and Staff at WSU

Additional information: See more information at the Tilford Commission website: https://www.wichita.edu/services/tilford_commission/index.php (accessed February 2, 2021.)



Led by the Tilford Coordinator in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Tilford Commission is a campus-wide group of faculty, staff, students, and administrators dedicated to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in all areas of the Wichita State University community.

By hosting faculty and staff development events, leading efforts to diversify the curriculum, and helping to coordinate efforts across campus to address diversity-related issues, the Tilford Commission makes Wichita State University a leader among Kansas's institutions of higher learning in promoting cultural competency and global awareness.

The History of Tilford

Commission

The Tilford Commission was formed in August 2007 as an outgrowth of an institutional break-out session held at the annual Michael Tilford Conference on Diversity and Multiculturalism, which was hosted that year by Wichita State University. The Tilford Conference, sponsored annually by the Kansas Board of Regents and KBOR institutions, is named after Dr. Michael Tilford, who served as Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Wichita State University as well as the WSU representative for the Regents' Diversity and

Multiculturalism Committee. The Commission is led by the Tilford Coordinator and includes members from departments and units across campus.

Dr. Michael P. Tilford

In 1969 Dr. Tilford was one of 100 African-American educators from across the country who received Ford Foundation Grants for advanced graduate study, and received his doctorate from Oklahoma State University. Dr. Tilford also had earned the bachelor's degree from Langston University in mathematics and chemistry and the master's degree from Johns Hopkins University in science education. He was appointed dean of the Graduate School at Wichita State University in 1988 and associate vice president for Academic Affairs in 1994.

Dr. Tilford was co-chair of the North Central Association accreditation team at WSU, chair of the Kansas Graduate Deans, a member of the national organization Council of Graduate Schools, and past chair of the Midwestern Association for Graduate Schools. In the 1970s he served on a committee that developed a successful proposal for the minority studies program. In addition, he helped to conduct a study of the institutional commitment to "minorities" at WSU. Dr. Michael P. Tilford was a beloved colleague and friend to all who knew him, at WSU and around the state, region and nation, as well as on the Tilford Conference planning committee.

Mission Statement

The Tilford Commission is a campus-wide group of faculty, staff and students dedicated to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion at Wichita State University. Formed in 2007 and named after WSU's former Dean of the Graduate College, Michael Tilford, the Commission's primary goals are to:

1. Help Wichita State University become an institution that reflects the evolving diversity of our society and a campus community that nurtures diversity in culture, thought, and experience;
2. Further curriculum efforts that include diversity and multiculturalism as a course or program objective through faculty-fellowships, faculty education programs, and the Tilford Diversity Studies Certificate program;
3. Increase the understanding and implementation at WSU of current best practices and policies that relate to student admission, retention, and satisfaction as well as faculty and staff hiring, retention, and satisfaction.

Join us

All faculty, staff, and students at Wichita State University are welcome to join the Tilford Commission. To be added to our mailing list, email the Tilford Coordinator at tilford@wichita.edu.