

## FREE SPEECH, DEMONSTRATION AND PROTEST POLICY

This policy has been established to facilitate free speech demonstrations at Copiah-Lincoln Community College's Wesson and Natchez Campuses and the Simpson County Center. The purpose of this policy is to effectively communicate information regarding free speech demonstrations and protests at the College.

Free Speech Zones: The College has established high visibility areas on campus in order to facilitate robust debate and the free exchange of ideas. These *Free Speech Zones* may be used by any person, including non-students and other campus guests:

Campus	Designated Location
Wesson Campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Pedestrian Corridor Seal (Located near Callendar Hall)</li><li>– West Entrance of Pedestrian Corridor (Located between the Ewing Administration Building and the Evelyn Oswalt Library)</li></ul>
Natchez Campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– The Quad (Located in the middle of campus by the Butterfly Garden)</li><li>– Area to the east of the Main Entrance of the Reed-Watkins Career Technical building</li></ul>
Simpson County Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Area to the east of the Main Entrance of the Sidney Parker Building</li><li>– Corridor area by Career-Technical Building</li></ul>

### College Students, Faculty and Staff

Areas defined in the above policy may be used without permission from the College by students, faculty or staff as long as they have not been previously reserved or scheduled for a particular function, no sound amplification is used, no structure is erected and the participants do not violate other College policies. Any speaker may be denied or asked to leave if the speech constitutes an immediate and serious danger to the institution's orderly operation by the speaker's incitement of such actions by:

1. The willful damage or destruction of seizure and subversion of the institution's buildings or other property.
2. The forcible disruption or impairment of interference with the institutions regularly scheduled classes or other educational functions.
3. The physical harm, coercion, intimidation or other invasion of lawful rights of the institution's officials, faculty members or students; or other campus disorder of a violent nature.
4. Any University affiliated speaker may be asked by a College official or campus police officer to relocate to one of the alternate locations listed if the designated "*Free Speech Zone*" has been previously reserved by one or more student organizations or College departments.
5. Individual students, faculty or staff have the right of free expression anywhere on campus so long as the expressive activities or related conduct does not violate any other applicable College policies, nor pose a threat to the safety and security of the campus.
6. If a student organization or an individual student anticipates that an event may impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic or will involve a parade, march or other similar activity, the College requires the student organization or individual student to complete an event form at least three (3) working days in advance of the activity through the appropriate campus office which are the Dean of Student Services Office for the Wesson Campus and the Vice President's Office

on the Natchez Campus and Simpson County Center. These appointed offices will work with the organization to meet the request or find a suitable time and location that balances the rights of the student organization with the rights of others and the College's educational mission. The purpose of this policy is not to designate College streets and common areas as a public forum to accommodate demonstrations or protests by those who are not part of the College's community (non-students and other campus guests). Rather, the purpose of this policy is to promote and facilitate student expression while allowing the College to make any necessary arrangements (such as arranging parade routes, providing security) to ensure such activities do not pose a threat of safety and security of campus.

7. Only to the extent allowed by applicable law, the College reserves the right to impose reasonable restrictions on the time, place, or manner of speech, demonstrations and protest for reasons that include, but are not limited to, safety and security and/or mitigation of the disruption to campus activities.

#### **Non-College Affiliated**

1. Individuals or groups not affiliated with the College are permitted access to the *Free Speech Zones* subject to the following requirements:
  - a. Non-College individuals or groups may reserve one of the *designated Free Speech Zone Spaces* through the Dean of Students Office (Wesson Campus) or the Vice President of the Campus (Natchez Campus and Simpson County Center) no sooner than three (3) business days in advance and no later than one (1) business day in advance.
  - b. The Dean of Student Services' Office (Wesson Campus) or Office of the Vice President (Natchez Campus and Simpson County Center) may reserve one of the designated *Free Speech Zones* if it has not been previously reserved by a student organization or College department.
  - c. Non-College affiliated individuals or groups must comply with all the requirements outlined in this policy.

Any questions concerning this policy should be directed to the Dean of Student Services (Wesson Campus; Henley Building) or the Vice President's Office (Natchez Campus/Tom Reed Academic Center; Simpson County Center/Sidney Parker Academic Building).

Only to the extent allowed by applicable law, the College reserves the right to impose reasonable restrictions on the time, place, or manner of speech, demonstrations and protests for reasons that include, but are not limited to, safety and security and/or mitigation of the disruption to campus activities.