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HISTORY AND MISSION

1.1 HISTORY

Clarkson University was founded in memory of Thomas S. Clarkson, a northern New York resident characterized by both his varied successful business operations and by his deep concern for humanity. When he died, as the result of an accident in his sandstone quarry in 1894, his sisters, Elizabeth, Frederica, and Lavinia, established a memorial to his name by building and endowing an institution that would embody his philosophy. When the first building was completed, the first classes were held for 17 young men and women on September 2, 1896, at the Thomas S. Clarkson Memorial School of Technology.

In 1913, the charter was amended, and the name changed to the Thomas S. Clarkson Memorial College of Technology. Steady growth and development resulted in the New York State Board of Regents designating Clarkson a University on February 24, 1984.

Clarkson's motto, "A Workman That Needeth Not To Be Ashamed," is taken from Thomas S. Clarkson's favorite biblical verse: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." -- II Timothy 2:15.

Clarkson's colors, green and gold, were selected because the goldenrod was Thomas S. Clarkson's favorite flower.

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1.2 MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

1.2.1 Mission

Clarkson University is an independent, nationally recognized technological university whose faculty of teacher-scholars aspires to offer superior instruction and engage in high-quality research and scholarship in engineering, business, science, and liberal arts. Our primary mission is to educate talented and motivated men and women to become successful professionals through quality precollegiate, undergraduate, graduate and professional continuing education programs, with particular emphasis on the undergraduate experience. Our community and campus settings enhance the quality of student life and afford students access to and interaction with their faculty. We value the diversity of our University community, and we strive to attune ourselves and our programs to our global, pluralistic society. We share the belief that humane economic and social development derives from the expansion, diffusion, and application of knowledge.

1.2.2 Objectives

Clarkson objectives were set down in the first *Circular of Information*. The essence of those early objectives was:

- To aid young men and women who show a desire to aid themselves;
- To train the student for an engineering profession and for special skills in the various branches of arts and applied sciences;
- To give instruction in such subjects as are found to develop the qualities of self-reliance, sound judgment, and logical reasoning; and
- To add to the scientific and technical studies, which tend to make one resolute, exact, and strong, and at least a moderate amount of those cultural studies which tend to make one broad and liberal.

Today, much of the original focus remains, and Clarkson's objectives are clear:

A Vision of a Clarkson Education

The Clarkson University educational experience is designed to provide talented and ambitious students with the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve positions of leadership within their chosen profession. The combination of Clarkson's strong technologically rich curricula and state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities, coupled with an unparalleled commitment to a friendly learning environment and to students' personal development, uniquely prepares Clarkson graduates to excel in their chosen professions and to lead rewarding and creative lives.

In addition to a mastery of the core knowledge within his or her field, a Clarkson education provides each student with the opportunity to:

- solve real-world, open-ended problems that require creativity and risk taking, including participation in state-of-the-art research under the direction of distinguished faculty;
- develop and refine exceptional communication skills with an awareness of potential cultural differences;
- work productively within and lead disciplinary and multidisciplinary teams possibly composed of members with diverse interests and backgrounds;
- obtain outstanding capabilities in utilizing computing and other 21st century technologies;
- learn through instruction and guidance by nationally recognized faculty who have a commitment to both teaching and research that has made Clarkson a nationally ranked university.

A Clarkson student's education is greatly enhanced by a personal and friendly learning environment, within a small, residential, nationally recognized University, which:

- places students at the center of the educational process and where all employees have a commitment to creating an environment that contributes positively to students' overall educational experience;
- draws undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and staff together into a cohesive and stimulating learning community, wherein an atmosphere of scholarship and spirit of research is cultivated;
- supports the acquisition of knowledge through advanced electronic and information technology and innovative instructional approaches;
- provides personal advising and interaction with faculty and staff as well as supportive relationships among students;
- offers many leadership opportunities through co-curricular groups and activities;
- respects, and learns from its community of diverse people, backgrounds and cultures.

Together, these provide a unique educational experience that is directed toward developing the whole person.

1.2.3 Accreditation

Clarkson is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and its curricula are approved by the New York State Board of Regents. The degree programs in aeronautical, chemical, civil, computer, electrical, environmental, mechanical, and software engineering and are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, Inc. The School of Business curriculum is accredited by AACSB International. The chemistry curriculum is accredited by the American Chemical Society. The Physical Therapy curriculum is accredited by the Commission of the American Physical Therapy Association (CAPTA).

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