



Cultivate Rural  
Community College Leaders

## River Story

It is the future . . . .

A new student arrives at your college five years from now. What do you hope they see, feel, and experience as the result of your leadership at the organization?

### Consider thinking about the past:

- What have been some of the college's core values?
- What makes your college stand out?
- What sacred cows need to be slaughtered?
- What positive stories are told about your college's past?

### Consider thinking about the present:

- What are the current problems or issues your college is facing?
- What are current successes or opportunities your college has?
- How do your facilities meet the college's needs?
- What concerns do the people who live here have?
- How do the college's policies impact students?
- Who are the champions in the college?
- What are other colleges similar to yours doing?

### Consider thinking about the future: (In five years . . .)

- . . . What innovations has the college courageously tested out?
- . . . What external partnerships have flourished?
- . . . What is the college's culture?
- . . . What facility improvements have been made?
- . . . What attitude adjustments have taken place?
- . . . How has technology impacted the college?

For this writing exercise, assume there are no limitations to what you can do. As you work on this, remember this is inspiring a shared vision so as you think about these questions ask yourself:

- Does this opportunity excite you?
- Does this opportunity excite others in the community?
- How will these opportunities bring the community closer together?
- How does your dream connect to others' dreams?
- How can you create and express this vision to get the group/community to embrace the vision?

**Write this narrative from the student's point of view and in his or her voice.**