

# Construction path of first-class vocational and technical colleges under double first-class background

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**Abstract:** First-class vocational and technical colleges and universities are higher than regional demonstration vocational and technical colleges and universities in the pursuit of excellence and development. The construction of first-class vocational and technical colleges and universities is faced with such problems as unclear construction path, unclear educational goals, unproven economic strategies and weak international competitiveness. The construction path of first-class vocational and technical colleges under the background of “double first-class” : vigorously cultivate the school-running spirit of first-class vocational and technical colleges, accurately locate the ecological goal of first-class vocational and technical colleges, create high-end competitive brands of first-class vocational and technical colleges and universities, and accurately achieve benchmarking results of first-class vocational and technical colleges and universities.

**Key words:** “First-class”; Path study; Construction of vocational and technical colleges and universities

## I. The implication of the construction of first-class vocational and technical colleges under the background of double first-class

What is a vocational and technical college? According to the decision of The State Council on accelerating the development of modern vocational education and the opinions of the Ministry of Education on the establishment of colleges and universities during the “13th Five-Year Plan” period, it can be concluded that vocational and technical colleges and universities refer to the schools that are engaged in the training of skilled talents at the specialist level in the front line of production management and services, and actively carry out or participate in the reform and innovation of technical services and skills application. At the same time, it is clearly pointed out in the opinion that the existing vocational colleges can offer undergraduate vocational education and professional degree postgraduates. It can be seen that the opinions make clear the direction of the construction of vocational and technical colleges.

What is the level of first-class vocational and technical colleges and universities? At present, there are three popular opinions in the academic circle: first-class vocational and technical colleges are famous higher vocational colleges; The first-class vocational and technical colleges are the top vocational and technical colleges; First-class vocational and technical colleges and universities are those that lead the local economic and social development. “First-class” is an attribute pronoun, which is interpreted as “first class” in Modern Chinese; From the content, it refers to a higher value pursuit or goal pursuit on the basis of a certain school; In terms of form, “first-class” is a standard, a height to be reached, or a new requirement. Obviously, no matter in terms of content or form, “first-class” is a relatively comparative concept, which is a higher internal requirement and realm pursuit than the original state. “First-class” or a regional concept, usually people refer to “first-class”, its prefix refers to the first-class within the regional scope, such as the city first-class, provincial first-class, domestic first-class, international first-class and so on. Therefore, the so-called “first-class vocational and technical colleges” is also a relatively comparative concept, that is, compared with other vocational and technical colleges in the same region, their own school-running strength, social contribution and school-running reputation have obvious advantages, and are recognized as leading the regional economic and social development, high regional visibility and ranking vocational and technical colleges. At the same time, it is higher than the regional demonstration vocational and technical colleges and universities and constantly pursue excellent development of vocational and technical colleges and universities.

## II. The challenges and opportunities of the construction of first-class vocational and technical colleges under the background of double first-class

### 1. The specific construction path remains to be explored

With the introduction of national policies, vocational and technical colleges and universities are facing a golden period of development. Whether they can make good use of relevant national policies and grasp the development opportunities is a challenge for first-class vocational and technical colleges and universities. In the past, higher vocational education mostly showed the phenomenon of fragmentation, and the results were not obvious, and the “double first-class” construction plan, to a large extent, solved the important problems restricting the development of vocational and technical colleges. From 2015, the Ministry of Education proposed to support the local construction of 200 high-quality vocational colleges by 2018, and by 2020, China will realize a number of universities and disciplines into the world’s first-class ranks. The promulgation of these relevant documents, specifically, is to point out the direction for the further development of vocational colleges and universities, so that higher vocational colleges can clear a comprehensive direction of running a school. However, the opportunities also contain great challenges, such as “first-class” standards, construction path and other issues urgently need to be solved.

### 2. The unique school-running goals need to be clarified

The proposal of the “double first-class” construction plan points out the development goals for vocational and technical colleges and universities. First, under the influence of “double first-class”, higher vocational colleges begin to innovate their own educational philosophy

and pay attention to the cultivation of professional, skilled and specialized talents. Second, the construction of “double first-class” provides a sound management mechanism for the development of higher vocational colleges. From the long-term development point of view, a complete set of sound management mechanism can contribute to the training of higher vocational talents, develop the innovative spirit of students, and realize the ultimate goal of socialized service of higher vocational colleges.

### 3. The strategy of integrating with economic development still needs to be proved

At present, vocational education is in full swing throughout the country, and the number of independent higher vocational colleges in China has reached more than 1,300. Under the impetus of the “National Demonstration higher vocational College Construction Plan”, the key construction of national demonstration (backbone) higher vocational colleges have gained more and more social recognition in personnel training, and the society is increasingly in need of highly skilled talents, and the demand for first-class vocational colleges and universities is also increasing. On the other hand, the population of vocational education is low, and the overall level of development is not very high, and the change of economic development mode, especially the transformation and upgrading of industry, makes the talents trained by vocational and technical colleges and universities can not keep up with the needs of social and economic development.

### 4. The strategy of winning international competition remains to be analyzed

Internationally, many countries are actively ensuring or improving the quality and social status of vocational education by increasing the funds for vocational education, strengthening the management of vocational education and implementing multi-party cooperation, improving the modern vocational education system, and improving the level of vocational education, so as to ensure the international competitiveness of their vocational education and related industries. In the international competition, preemptive estimation of the impact of talents on the economy, society and culture is to occupy the highland of development, which is an opportunity for the development of vocational and technical colleges in China. China’s higher vocational education in the past 10 years has been rapid development, has reached a considerable scale. However, with the rapid expansion of the scale of higher vocational colleges, the quality of personnel training is difficult to meet the needs of high-skilled applied talents in the rapidly developing economy and society due to the backward educational philosophy, shortage of resources, insufficient investment and other reasons.

## III. The path of construction of first-class vocational and technical colleges under the background of double first-class

### 1. Vigorously cultivate the spirit of running a first-class vocational and technical college

The school-running spirit of first-class vocational and technical colleges consists of the following aspects. First, university spirit: it refers to the spirit which should be possessed by general universities, such as humanistic spirit and scientific spirit. Second, professional spirit, career is the soul of the development of vocational and technical colleges and universities, is an accurate summary of first-class vocational and technical colleges and universities; Third, regional spirit, first-class vocational and technical colleges and universities are generally a small number of colleges and universities in the region, which is the base for the accumulation, inheritance, development and innovation of traditional spirit and modern civilization in the region, and should be refined into a distinctive regional spirit; Fourthly, it includes the traditional spirit formed in the historical development process of the specific university itself; Fifth, the craftsman spirit. First-class vocational colleges and universities should cultivate students who are persistent in their work, keep improving on what they do and the products they produce, and have the spirit of elaborating.

At the same time, first-class vocational and technical colleges should pay attention to the construction of a cultural soft environment conducive to innovation, encourage teachers and students to identify with and follow the core of the school spirit to carry out various innovative activities, and create an educational atmosphere that respects knowledge, labor and skills.

### 2. Accurately positioning the ecological goals of first-class vocational and technical colleges and universities

The ecological objectives of first-class vocational and technical colleges should include: standard positioning and regional positioning. Standard positioning refers to the classification of first-class universities into famous universities and top-ranking universities according to the ranking order from the top to the bottom. Regional positioning refers to the positioning of vocational and technical colleges according to their geographical location and economic development degree, which can be divided into: local first-class, national first-class and world first-class. In the construction of first-class vocational colleges and universities, different colleges and universities should base on their current actual development, and the positioning of famous colleges and universities mainly depends on the popularity and social reputation of the schools. The top ranking universities are mainly based on positioning the first-class construction goal in the top ranking colleges and universities, focusing on improving the rankings of the schools.

In the target positioning, China’s vocational colleges and universities can build local or regional first-class, can also build national first-class and even world first-class, but must be based on their own foundation, conditions and internal and external environment and other factors, in the target positioning to carry out appropriate regional selection. For example, vocational colleges and universities with relatively good education foundation can closely combine with the needs of economic and social development in the region, especially the needs of industry enterprises with strong local characteristics to run schools, cultivate large-scale application-oriented technical skills talents for production, construction, management and service front-line needs, and become the leader of local vocational colleges and universities. A small number of vocational colleges and universities with advanced educational concepts, solid educational foundation, good educational conditions and relatively complete systems and mechanisms may, in accordance with the national first-class standards, train high-level talents for local applications of technical skills and popularize new and practical technologies. Individual vocational colleges and universities

with solid educational foundation, superior educational conditions, outstanding educational achievements and a relatively complete modern school system may be positioned to build themselves into world-class vocational colleges and universities. By strengthening international exchanges and cooperation, they should cultivate applied technical talents with an international vision and cope with international competition, so as to meet the needs of the “going global” development strategy of local enterprises.

### 3. High-end universities should build competitive brands of first-class vocational and technical colleges

The competitive brand of first-class vocational and technical colleges and universities is mainly composed of strong teachers and advantageous majors. Among them, the strong teachers are composed of double-qualified teachers and professional masters. The professional ability and teaching level of these teachers are well recognized by students and the society, and they have a high social visibility and influence in the field of industry. This first-class school quality and teaching level is reflected in the social reputation, which is first-class social reputation.

Therefore, first-class vocational and skilled colleges and universities must have distinctive advantages in disciplines, specialties, teaching modes, a team of professional masters with excellent structure and a team of “double-qualified” teachers. The superior majors of first-class vocational and technical colleges should hold high the banner of “application” construction, and improve the level of teaching, scientific research, social service and international cooperation in the construction of high-level applied disciplines.

### 4. Accurately achieve the benchmark achievements of first-class vocational and technical colleges and universities

To accurately achieve the benchmark results of first-class vocational and technical colleges, we must build first-class majors, train first-class talents, create first-class platforms, and produce first-class results. First of all, in terms of professional construction, the primary symbol of first-class vocational and technical colleges is to have one or several characteristic majors (or professional groups) that are well recognized by the market. Secondly, in terms of personnel training, the construction of first-class vocational and technical colleges should cultivate a number of influential professional leaders and famous teachers, produce a series of high-quality teaching resources, and lead the regional or the same industry, or even the international frontier level of teacher teams, teaching models, professional advantages and other disciplines. It is necessary to have a sense of development in line with international standards, learn from some advanced teaching concepts in the development of international vocational and technical colleges and universities and benchmark achievements of domestic institutions with the same level of development, and form unique benchmark achievements. Third, in terms of scientific research and social services, first-class vocational and technical colleges and universities should actively participate in the application of national invention patents, utility model patents, appearance patents or software Copyrights, upgrading engineering technology research centers and other projects. In addition, at the student level, technical competitions of higher vocational colleges should be organized, the number of authorized patents granted to grade students, and academic papers published by students in journals above the provincial level should be considered, so as to create an internal quality assurance system that is in line with international standards. It can be seen that in the process of building first-class vocational and technical colleges, we must have benchmarking consciousness. This is the foundation of the school and the inexhaustible driving force for future development.

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