

Delaware Will Shine Strategic Planning Initiative

GRAND CHALLENGES, GREAT DEBATES, BIG IDEAS

WORKING GROUP:

CONCEPT PAPER

NOTE: The goal of this strategic planning working group is to identify areas of state, national or global significance where UD is best positioned to engage via consequential research, teaching and service initiatives using existing resources and new and existing alliances, and where UD has reasonable opportunities on which to capitalize.

The following five DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS and DRAFT CORE VALUES are offered by this strategic planning working group to the community at large for discussion. In reviewing this document, consider the following questions:

- ***Do you have any overall comments on the themes?***
- ***Are major themes missing?***
- ***Do you see yourself fitting into the themes?***

Comments and input on the DRAFT document should be submitted to spi@udel.edu by no later than Monday, November 3. Feedback received will be used to develop the final set of recommendations.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Educating the 21st-Century Citizen. The world is changing faster than our educational systems. Emerging technologies, proliferating data and global dynamics require new skills, which in turn demand new ways of teaching and learning. Educators at all levels are called upon to prepare students to contribute positively to a world none of us can fully imagine and to do it in the face of increasing system inequities that often dictate students' educational opportunities and rising costs that limit access or create financial burdens for them. Faced with these challenges, UD must work to identify and embrace learning outcomes that matter for the 21st century. We will create learning environments that focus on collaboration, creativity and analytical thinking to solve new problems and generate new ideas. We will work to ensure quality educational opportunities for a diverse group of potential learners, opportunities that break out of traditional subject and major-based boundaries. Our groundbreaking research and innovation will inform policy and practice ensuring that UD will lead efforts to improve education within the bounds of its own campus, the state, the nation and the world through the leadership of its graduates.

Fostering Health and Well-Being. The primary determinants of an individual's health status are lifestyle, environment and genetics. As individuals and families look to embark on the road to a healthier life, they face a myriad of social, economic and environmental hurdles. As a result, the United States continues to spend more on health care than any other nation but remains among the worst in health outcomes of any developed nation. UD will holistically engage in public and private partnerships that integrate nutrition, health, environment and agriculture to address health practices for populations on campus and beyond. UD will train students to be among the health care professionals, research scientists and biomedical engineers of the future. Research and outreach will address issues such as

health literacy, chronic disease prevention and management, age-related health challenges, health disparities, nutrition, and health policy issue education. Evidence-based interventions will be deployed in ways that will keep people healthy and delay or prevent the need for medical care.

Building a Sustainable Economy and Broadening Prosperity. Developing a flexible, innovative and entrepreneurial culture for business and economic development is critical to support a sustainable global economy. Proactively addressing the tension between fiscal goals, available natural resources and broad social well-being will help us find new ways of doing and support prosperity for all citizens in Delaware, our nation and the world. Employability and opportunity, grounded in liberal arts and coupled with discovery experiences, are at the heart of UD's educational mission and will ensure that our graduates are highly sought after in the workplace, fully understand the local and global impacts of their decisions, and are able to apply their knowledge and skills to local or global solutions. UD research, involving faculty and students, and conducted through strong relationships and partnerships with the private sector, federal and community agencies, non-profit institutions, and others both locally and globally, will play an essential role in creating new knowledge and applied solutions that reimagine business and industry and create meaningful prosperity for all.

Innovating Energy and Environmental Solutions. The world's energy and environmental challenges have never been so complex: growing needs for sustainable energy and materials generation; scarcity of food and freshwater resources; compromised natural ecosystems; declines in diverse populations of flora and fauna; a changing climate; and at-risk human populations across the planet – all require the fullest attention and most innovative solutions from scholars in all fields. While addressing these issues is of paramount importance for the world and the country, similar concerns prevail in our own region and spur discussions over tradeoffs between traditional versus renewable energy production; economic and population pressures on mid-Atlantic agriculture, forests and the Delaware coastline; and ways to protect and restore the Delaware and Chesapeake Bay watersheds through pollution and waste management. The University of Delaware is well-positioned to address these challenges through both research and scholarship, by emphasizing multidisciplinary approaches to solve these interwoven economic, policy, ethical, scientific and technological questions; and by educating and collaborating with students, staff, communities, business leaders and governments searching for solutions to these complex energy and environmental problems. As the University leverages its existing expertise and proximity to influential policy makers and business leaders, and builds new strengths across and between disciplines, it is committed to finding thoughtful, sustainable and equitable solutions to these challenges, forged through conversations and partnerships between the University, the community, government and industry.

Empowering All People and Bridging Opportunity Divides. The University of Delaware and the local, national and global communities in which it is embedded include people from all economic, cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds, of all political persuasions, and with diverse physical and developmental abilities. UD is committed to ensuring that all people associated with it have the opportunity to realize their full potential through its engaging and empowering learning communities. In addition, UD will engage in high-impact research and outreach efforts to provide evidence-based perspectives that broaden opportunities, increase access to higher education, promote cross-cultural communication and embrace diversity of all kinds in communities ranging from the local to the global. Delaware's small size provides a unique opportunity for the University's goals to be scaled to the level of the state, and to provide a national microcosm for empowered and productive engagement.

DRAFT CORE VALUES

NOTE: The following core values have been identified as critical foundational underpinnings for the recommendations.

- Innovation/creativity
- Engagement (in different forms--with teaching, students, community--and as a two-way process)
- Multidisciplinary approach
- Teamwork/collaboration
- Integrity/accountability
- Fairness/equality/respect
- Diversity (in faculty, staff, students, ideas)
- Impact

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