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University of Nebraska at Omaha Strategic Plan

Strategic Planning Steering Committee
University of Nebraska at Omaha

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University of Nebraska at Omaha

Strategic Plan

UNO: placing students first...striving for academic excellence...engaging with the community.

Mission

The University of Nebraska at Omaha is Nebraska's metropolitan university -- a university with strong academic values and significant relationships with our community that transform and improve life.

UNO will:

- Place students at the center of the educational enterprise;
- Expand the educational achievement, intellectual aspirations and horizons of our students with local, state, national, and global communities;
- Offer comprehensive educational programs and services of the highest quality;
- Serve as a recognized center for research, scholarship, creative expression and artistic performance designed to meet the broader community's needs;
- Provide outreach partnerships that address the concerns and interests of the broader external community and, in doing so, become an integral part of the community;
- Build understanding and respect in academic and human relationships by reflecting the dynamic and culturally rich nature of the metropolitan area;
- Exercise statewide responsibility for selected graduate and undergraduate programs.

Vision

The University of Nebraska at Omaha will be a metropolitan university of high distinction -- a university with strong academic and scholarly values distinguished by creative relationships with the communities we serve.

Values

The University of Nebraska at Omaha community is a diverse group of individuals sharing core values and working together to accomplish a common mission and vision.

UNO:

- Believes that knowledge enriches the lives of all people and is committed to preparing students to face the challenges of living and learning in an ever-changing world;
- Strives for an ideal educational partnership characterized by the commitment of: students to learning; faculty to the highest ideals of teaching, research, service; and staff to the highest standards of education and service;
- Values the welfare, talents, and future of our employees and commits to expanding their professional development;
- Values the educational, cultural, and economic strengths of our communities and is committed to enhancing these through teaching, research, service and outreach;
- Values educated and healthy citizens and is committed to offering programs that improve their quality of life;
- Encourages, celebrates, and adopts the principles of inclusion, representation, openness and diversity.

Goal 1: UNO places students at the center of its enterprise.

As we strive to achieve our vision, students are always UNO's key constituency. UNO commits to build and serve a diverse student body reflecting a dynamic metropolitan environment.

Sub-Goal A: UNO develops and maintains academic programs and support services designed for the varying academic, career, and personal goals of traditional and non-traditional students.

Objective 1: Offer curricula that provide a strong academic foundation and ongoing assessment for all students.

Objective 2: Continually review and refine curricula, programs, and services to encourage student development, goal identification and attainment.

Objective 3: Expand articulation agreements and cooperative programs to improve ease of transfer into UNO from community colleges, four-year colleges and universities as well as international institutions.

Objective 4: Offer courses or programs via alternate means (e.g. distance education) consistent with student demand and resource availability.

Sub-Goal B: UNO graduates are prepared for responsibility as active citizens through leadership, participation, and employment in diverse environments throughout the nation and the world.

Objective 1: Provide an intellectual, cultural, physical and social learning environment that fosters pride, attachment, and participation of students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

Objective 2: Develop distinctive intellectual, cultural, physical and social learning environments designed to strengthen academic programs, leadership opportunities and self development and growth for all students.

Objective 3: Ensure that students benefit from the opportunities of and interaction with the metropolitan environment.

Objective 4: Increase employer satisfaction with UNO graduates. Increase graduates satisfaction with preparation and opportunities for employment.

Sub-Goal C: UNO will expand educational opportunities for students from under-represented populations.

Objective 1: Develop programs designed to increase recruitment, retention, and graduation of students from under-represented populations.

Objective 2: Develop a supportive environment for under-represented students by increasing recruitment and retention of a diverse faculty and staff.

Sub-Goal D: UNO will be the higher education institution of first choice for qualified students desiring a metropolitan university experience.

Objective 1: Develop programs and activities designed to increase the percentage of high school students in the top 10 percent of their graduating class who apply and enter UNO.

Objective 2: Develop programs and activities designed to increase the percentage of high school students who consider UNO their first Omaha university choice.

Objective 3: Develop programs and activities designed to increase the percentage of post-baccalaureate students who consider UNO their first choice for graduate education.

Objective 4: Develop programs and activities designed to increase the percentage of non-traditional students who consider UNO their first university choice.

Objective 5: Develop programs and activities designed to increase the percentage of UNO enrollments in comparison with all higher education enrollments in the metropolitan area.

Goal 2: UNO strives to achieve academic excellence.

UNO strives for academic excellence by focusing on teaching, learning and scholarship consistent with its metropolitan mission. Excellence is demonstrated in programs and areas of distinction, high quality undergraduate programs and strong graduate research/professional programs.

Sub-Goal A: UNO's teaching is designed to meet the multiple needs and highest aspirations of students drawn to a metropolitan campus.

Objective 1: Ensure that excellent teaching, supported by research and creative activity, will be valued and rewarded.

Objective 2: Enhance the quality and appropriateness of instruction.

Objective 3: Provide a rich and varied learning environment to support research, teaching, and service. This environment includes the effective utilization of pedagogical assessment tools, university-wide supported collaborative projects and leading-edge technology.

Objective 4: Integrate opportunities for research and creative activity into the learning experience of all students.

Objective 5: Provide support for lifelong learning.

Sub-Goal B: UNO will develop, nurture, and recognize academic programs of excellence.

Objective 1: Develop programs of academic excellence in research and creative activity.

Objective 2: Identify and foster existing programs of academic excellence in research and creative activity.

Objective 3: Increase the quantity and quality of nationally and internationally recognized academic programs.

Objective 4: Establish and foster new interdisciplinary programs consistent with UNO's metropolitan mission.

Objective 5: Establish an ongoing process of assessment and prioritization for all academic programs.

Sub-Goal C: UNO will increase its stature as an institution of scholarly excellence.

Objective 1: Increase scholarly activity of faculty and students with particular emphasis on areas consistent with the metropolitan university mission.

Objective 2: Increase the quality and quantity of external grants and contracts by creating incentives for faculty and students to seek out funding opportunities for their research and creative activities.

Objective 3: Develop a learning environment committed to outreach and cooperative activities designed to strengthen academic programs for all students.

Objective 4: Increase participation of under-represented student groups in scholarly activities.

Objective 5: Increase the visibility of UNO's academic achievements.

Goal 3: UNO will actively engage with the urban, regional, national, and global communities.

UNO promotes partnerships that transform and improve urban, regional, national and global life. UNO supports dynamic and reciprocal relationships with constituents. Knowledge can be shared; accessible resources applied; and energies can be extended to continuously address contemporary issues.

Objective 1: Respond to the needs, interests, and differences inherent in the diverse community UNO serves.

Objective 2: Meet the continuing educational, training, enrichment, and service needs of its varied constituencies.

Objective 3: Develop and expand partnerships that meet the educational, training, enrichment, and service needs of the community.

Objective 4: Strongly encourage, recognize, and reward professional and community service by faculty, staff, and students.

Objective 5: Strongly encourage and recognize the involvement and contributions of alumni and community partners to UNO's academic enterprise.

Objective 6: Enhance students' educational and developmental experiences through greater use of external resources.