

Vision of strategic plan helps Boise State 'Chart the Course'



As Boise State continues its transformation into a metropolitan research university, the need for a comprehensive blueprint for growth is critical to its success. To meet the need, the university recently unveiled "Charting the Course," a strategic plan designed to keep Boise State on track toward its goal.

The plan's vision is grounded in the university's reputation as an excellent teaching institution that excels in community engagement, while also responding to the need to develop a stronger research agenda. Charting the Course is designed to shape the university's direction, rather than change it.

To this end, four areas of emphasis form the core of the strategic plan:

- **Academic excellence** — High-quality, student-focused programs that integrate theory and practice, engage students in community-based learning and are informed by meaningful assessment.
- **Public engagement** — Linking the university's academic mission with its community partners to address issues of mutual benefit.
- **Vibrant culture** — Embracing and fostering innovation, responsiveness, inclusiveness, accessibility, diversity and effective stewardship.
- **Exceptional research** — Defined by progressive scholarship, creative activity and graduate programs that have groundbreaking applications locally, regionally and globally.

The plan was conceived a year ago, and its creation involved extensive input from university faculty, staff and students. The campus community identified several guiding principles, including involving everyone in the pursuit of excellence, and a respect for the diversity of individuals, scholarship and learning environments.

The plan is unique as far as university strategic plans go. It does not proscribe responsibilities to specific campus units, but rather lays out a vision, describes how to get there, and makes it possible for all campus units to determine how they can best support the plan. It is also laid out in a unique map format that graphically depicts how the university will achieve its vision.

"Charting the Course represents shared goals and agreed-upon definitions of success, creating a framework on which we can hang our imaginable future initiatives," says Provost Sona Andrews. "It is about our future, including areas where we plan to make a difference, but it also builds upon our solid past in a way that will move us from good to excellent. We believe that ours is a vision that truly defines what a university will look like in the 21st century."

As a document designed to guide the university for the next several years, Charting the Course contains not only goals and strategies, but also milestones to help chart progress. Those milestones include being recognized for integrating researching with teaching and learning in high-quality programs, for partnerships that contribute to regional growth and development, for faculty and students who excel in research and as a center for cultural and intellectual exchange that enriches the community.

Boise State will produce an annual report card to assess its progress and evaluate its direction. To learn more about the strategic plan, visit www2.boisestate.edu/vpaa/ and click on "Charting the Course."

— Kathleen Craven

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