Westfield State University
STRATEGIC PLAN
2019–2024

SETTING THE ROAD MAP WITH A FOCUS ON:

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE  ENROLLMENT  CULTURE  RESOURCES
Submitted to:
Strategic Planning Committee
Massachusetts Board of Higher Education
Westfield State University

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The Westfield State University Strategic Plan asks—and addresses the question—What do students need to learn to explore the problems that matter in the Commonwealth and to position the institution to address global change? Our plan addresses the pragmatic urgency for us to prepare to educate students from increasingly exciting and diverse backgrounds and to provide opportunity for further education to the one million adult learners with some college education in Massachusetts and beyond so they can serve the public good of building a vibrant economic, social, and cultural Commonwealth.

This document is organized to share with the reader:

- An overview of the plan and our campus history,
- The campus contexts that shape our location in the state system of higher education,
- The campus engagement that made this plan a successful community-building endeavor,
- The dimensions of the plan itself: mission, vision, values; strategic goals and priorities, metrics
- The implementation scaffolding that ensures our campus actions are tied to achieving our goals

**STRATEGIC GOALS**

Building on sustained dialogue among stakeholders, data gathered on workforce needs and established institutional benchmarks, the Westfield State University Strategic Plan provides articulation of the actions needed to reach our strategic goals: exceptional student experience, strategic enrollment, creation of a culture supporting our values, and expansion and stewardship of all types of resources. Our plan reaches across our organizational chart and deep into our community. It maps routes for campus-wide responsibility and engagement in forward-thinking action to manifest our refined mission.

The commitment to connection woven through this campus plan is inspired by our institutional history and by the guidance provided by the Department of Higher Education strategic planning framework: integrating universities with P-12 partners, and providing for innovation in, and new, academic programming.
THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

As a comprehensive university our academic direction is the foundation of our goal to provide for an exceptional student experience at Westfield State University. Westfield’s academic direction hinges on partnerships, strong and plentiful and creative. An academic direction rooted in partnership provides for integrative education along the life cycle continuum. By partnering with P-12 districts, community colleges and industry leaders, Westfield State University will create a college-going culture in Western Massachusetts and beyond, and provide student-centered curricular models to respond to the changing needs of our student population and the changing features of workforce alignment.

As our academic direction achieves the goal of a fully integrated and exceptional student experience through the implementation of the strategic plan, Westfield State University will be characterized by nimble content delivery, relevant pedagogies, and innovative programming designed to meet the needs of our changing student population, changing landscape of Commonwealth job growth, and consistent need for educated and engaged citizens. These priorities are dependent on pre-college engagement, community partnerships, and internal university synergies.

At the core of realizing our academic direction and abiding by the Department of Higher Education framework are two entities to be housed in the $40 million renovation of Parenzo Hall: The Center for Innovation in Education and Industry Partnerships and The Center for Student Success and Engagement. These centers are cornerstones for our program planning. The Center for Innovation in Education and Industry Partnerships will leverage technology to serve as the nexus for innovative collaboration in Western Massachusetts. It will teach students and community partners how to engage productively in online-hybrid environments that increase flexibility for students, facilitate co-enrollment, expand course choices and provide a bridge to employment. The Center for Student Success and Engagement will attend to the “Big Three” outcomes of the Vision Project (college participation, college completion, closing achievement gaps) by bringing together one place student success programs currently scattered, leaving students vulnerable to “falling through the cracks” and stifling the synergies that arise when staff with a common goal collaborate daily. Among the support programs and offices which will comprise this center include the Banacos Center, Urban Education, Advising Center, Reading & Writing Center, and TRIO programs.

Westfield State University’s promise to its students, to its community partners and to the Commonwealth means the university walks the walk of partnership. Here at home The Westfield State Experience is the culmination of campus and community partnership. This signature program unites Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and the early college opportunities of the Westfield Promise to provide each student a road map from high school, college admissions and through graduation. In year one, experiences including FYO courses and cohort groupings and targeted advising support students as they adjust to college. In year two, students engage a reflective process to develop a feasible plan for understanding the import and consequences of selecting a major and a career path and planning for college success and graduation. In year three, students engage in the full potential of high-impact practices, including undergraduate research, civic engagement and internships. In the fourth year, students are supported in their transition from the university to either graduate school or career.

Among the many tensions characterizing debates about higher education on campuses and in communities nationwide is the debate over the relevance of liberal arts programming and professional programs. We treat this tension as an opportunity to re-instantiate the value of higher education as a public good and as an essential opportunity to provide economic and personal meaning for our students. Our comprehensive mission insists we prepare students to lead, to inspire, and to adapt. We do so through our liberal arts commitments infused throughout our curriculum in both core and major arenas. It also insists we are responsive to the workforce needs of the Commonwealth. As we deepen our program review processes and engage in ongoing research about what programs are needed, we build on our many historic strengths including those in criminal justice, education, business and psychology. We nurture new programs, for example, in health. New and revised programs outlined in this plan provide a pipeline to high demand areas outlined by the Workforce Cabinet (e.g., health care, finance, human services, cybersecurity).
**ENROLLMENT**

Similarly, the commitment to the comprehensive mission of state institutions as well as the changing population of new learners means our strategic plan must attend to both similarities and differences between the needs the four-year residential college student and the expanding number of adult learners who will not seek that experience. Our strategic goal in enrollment aims to prepare to recruit, welcome and support students in an increasingly competitive environment. Our actions will engage the entire campus in bringing students to Westfield State for an exceptional experience. Strategic enrollment decisions and increased financial aid provide the promise of partnership, from bringing students to campus in early college contexts, to repackaged financial aid, down to each and every Westfield State community member has as an ambassador for enrollment. We see our new programming, supports for our existing programs, and synergy as providing support for all students. Also crucial in our plan to serve a diverse population of students is the knowledge that Commonwealth residents need to be lifelong learners. University education is no longer a one phase, one-time experience.

Enrollment management predicts a 10 percent drop in enrollment of traditional age, first-year, first time students during the lifetime of the plan. Through careful planning and programming, the four-year experience, combined with stackable credits, community college partnerships, certificate programs the university will attend to the needs of the range of learners who wish to pursue post-secondary education in Massachusetts.

Enrollment forecasts are tied to our budget models and the institution is prepared to dedicate $1 million per year to fund strategic initiatives to ensure institutional sustainability and transformation in support of all our students during this exciting time in higher education.
CAMPUS CULTURE

The planning process outlined in the pages that follow demonstrates the sustained dialogue and reflection that characterized this process. This dialogue does not end with the filing of the strategic plan. It is embedded in the plan itself. During our planning we heard campus articulations of the need for deep and broad communication. The initiatives and actions outlined in the implementation, attend to planning and careful resource allocation in an effort to increase campus awareness of process, involvement, and criteria decision-making. We, like the nation, are engaged in the deep reflection, planning, and actions necessary when placing diversity and inclusion at the forefront of campus priorities. As we strive to provide for an increasingly diverse student population, create responsive programming, and alleviate barriers to student success in and out of the classroom, we actualize the commitment of each individual on campus to the success of the our students. Building a culture responsive to change and through which our values can be actualized is part of creating an exceptional student experience. Our plan attends to cultural change through campus conversation about high priority issues, conducting research on how we can improve our campus culture, providing for structured onboarding and professional development to support faculty and staff, attending to diversity and inclusion, and celebrating our campus-wide successes.

RESOURCES

Institutions across the country struggle with conversations about resources: who has them, what happens when resources are reduced, what priorities are reflected in resource allocation, resource development, financial and budgetary literacy. In light of declining financial support and the shifting demographics impacting enrollment, the institution must engage in extensive and sustained planning for resources of all sorts to be leveraged to insure a stable university and implementation of mission critical initiatives that support our students. Further, our ability to identify and clarify processes across and through the institution will in part determine how we move forward with both flexibility and focus.

Enrollment Management and Administration and Finance are engaged in a coordinated effort to bridge enrollment projections with the budget process. Budget processes and priorities are being shared with budget directors and relevant committees.

WORK THE PLAN, PLAN THE WORK

Our campus is no stranger to change. Westfield State has managed the rippling effects of changes in leadership, changes in national climate and the demoralizing effects of a faculty contract unsettled. Yet, the campus keeps moving, keeps teaching, and keeps addressing the students who need us. The plan itself is a change for campus. Our efforts over the past five years to build a culture of planning which will allow us to evaluate, build, and sustain the highest quality opportunities for our students are manifest in this plan. Built into the plan are imperatives requiring research and evaluation so we may best strengthen the health of the institution, and consequently, the Commonwealth.
Our history is making history

Since our inception, Westfield State University has embraced the mission of a teaching institution, placing the student experience at the center of our work. Much has been written about the evolving landscape of higher education, the challenges we face from industry disruptors and intense competition for students on the horizon; yet as a public teaching institution our focus remains the same: providing an accessible high quality education. Thus while conversations on our campus about strategic planning sometimes brought to light places we need to adjust, refocus, and adapt, one point on which we all agreed is to maintain a vigilant focus on our students and their success. That focus is emblematic of our historical roots as a forward thinking institution.

OVERVIEW OF INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

HISTORY

On September 4, 1839, Westfield State University was founded in Barre, Massachusetts, as “one of the most important educational experiments in American history: the development of the normal school to provide teachers for the common schools of the mid-nineteenth century.”

On that first day, 20 pupils—12 women and eight men—gathered in the new town hall to begin a revolutionary project: free, public higher education for the citizens of the Commonwealth. In this, the first public coeducational normal school in the United States, all of the nation’s ideals would be embodied. An enlightened citizenry was seen as the necessary base for the democratic experiment being worked out in the new nation. A trained force of teachers was essential to prepare the country’s youth to take on the responsibilities inherent in the freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution.

As the first secretary to the Massachusetts Commission to Improve Education (later the State Board of Education), Horace Mann pursued his dream of a great system of free public schools, organized on solid educational principles which would be established in the “normal schools.” Westfield was to become one of the models for the “normal school” idea which would spread across the nation and much of the world.

Mann’s dream had humble origins. In two years at the Barre location, 160 students were taught with limited resources. The first principal and primary faculty member, Dr. Samuel P. Newman of Bowdoin College, also kept all records, supervised the dormitory and acted as janitor. In 1844, the Board of Education voted to move the campus to Westfield, where civic leaders had long sought a college for their community.

The Westfield Normal School thrived in its new setting. Faculty and graduates went on to found and staff comparable institutions across the country. In the 1870s, the Japanese government sent a prince to study at Westfield so that its practices could be emulated in Japan.

The school was especially important because it erected no barriers against students due to gender, race, religion, or income. Western Massachusetts native Samuel Chapman Armstrong, a commander of African-American troops in the Civil War, founded Hampton University for the
education of African-Americans and also sent ex-slave pupils to Westfield Normal School.

So, while not many so-called freedmen were able to take advantage of higher education opportunities at that time, attending Westfield Normal School was one of the few opportunities they had. Among them was Samuel Courtney, an African-American physician elected to the Boston School Committee in the 1890s, for whom one of the current campus residence halls is named.

Although its primary mission was the preparation of teachers, Westfield Normal School graduates entered careers as diverse as medicine, law, publishing, the ministry, and government service. In the words of Dr. Robert Brown, “For those pupils with ambition and a bit of luck, it became the gateway to new lives.”

In 1847, the alumni association was born when the first graduates gathered for a reunion in Westfield. National figures gave speeches, the local newspaper saturated its pages with coverage and “ladies of the village” prepared a feast for all. This tradition of linking the college and community continues through community service programs, education partnerships, and cultural events.

In the 1930s, the Normal School became a State Teachers College with a curriculum leading to the Bachelor of Science in education. Soon thereafter, alumni and citizens of Westfield led the hundreds of advocates who helped deflect proposals to close public teachers’ colleges.

After surviving this threat, the college again saw a period of growth, moving from the building which is now Westfield City Hall to the current Western Avenue campus, dedicated in 1956. In the 1960s, the state authorized the Bachelor of Arts degree as an alternative to the teaching program. As enrollment quadrupled between 1960 and 1967, the college added new buildings and instituted continuing education and graduate programs. In 1967, its name was changed to Westfield State College. For several decades, growth continued with expansion of the campus and programs, and in 2010, its name was changed to Westfield State University.

Today, as in decades past, the context of education in the Commonwealth provides opportunities to engage the historic strengths of our institution, while meeting contemporary demographic and workplace challenges with innovative programming.
100% pass rate at the first sitting of the NCLEX in 2017

In alignment with both workforce development needs as identified by workforce cabinet data skills and prospective student interest, we have invested in starting new, selected academic programs in both undergraduate and graduate areas, including an undergraduate degree in health sciences.

We are pleased to offer STEM-area courses in the Dr. Nettie M. Stevens Science and Innovation Center, which opened in the fall of 2016.

STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES
28 providers, offering more than 300 programs

Over 5,500 students contributing over 61,000 hours of service to our communities each year

FIRST PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT program at a Public University in New England

In our continued efforts to increase our retention and graduation rates, Westfield State began a series of initiatives including “first-year only” courses and a campus read.
PARENZO HALL RENOVATION

Westfield State University received a $21.25 million investment from the Commonwealth for capital repairs and improvements, to renovate our oldest building, Parenzo Hall. Through the Parenzo Hall renovation project, the University aspires to transform the dated building into a state-of-the-art hub for student success and workforce development. In addition to optimal space utilization, renovations will create two new centers—the Center for Innovation in Education and Industry Partnerships and the Center for Student Success and Engagement. The Center for Innovation in Education and Industry Partnerships will leverage technology to serve as the nexus for innovative collaboration in Western Massachusetts, partnering with K-12 school districts, community colleges, and industry partners. It will teach students and community partners how to engage productively in online-hybrid environments that increase flexibility for students, facilitate co-enrollment, expand course choices and provide a bridge to employment. Also within the renovated space, the Center for Student Success and Engagement will attend to the student-outcomes goals of the Vision Project. Currently, our student success programs are scattered, leaving students vulnerable to “falling through the cracks” and stifling the synergies that arise when staff with a common goal collaborate daily.

THE WESTFIELD STATE EXPERIENCE

The Westfield State Experience is our four-year signature program designed to retain students, make high-impact practices available to all students, and close the achievement gap by providing coherent and targeted programming throughout our students’ time at Westfield State. The first year experiences, including FYO courses and cohort groupings support students as they adjust to school. The second year guides students through a reflective process with the goal of each student developing a feasible road map to success built on a clear set of options. The third year engages students in high-impact practices. Our faculty have championed investment in undergraduate research and creative work, spearheading two student showcase events each year which have seen expansive growth. The number of poster presentations have more than doubled in the span of three years. Upon his arrival at Westfield State, President Ramon S. Torrecilha, Ph.D. committed to the development of a Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (CURCA), which opens this fall in a newly renovated space in the Campus Center. In the last year, the students are supported in their process of transitioning to either a career or graduate school. This signature program is situated to play an essential role in the strategic plan and a key role in achieving the system-wide goals of college participation, completion, and closing the achievement gap.
ACCESS

We have taken advantage of the State University Internship Incentive fund each year. This year, we matched the state’s funding of $156,000 and distributed $256,000 to support student internships. Furthermore, monies secured through fundraising efforts have defrayed the cost of tuition and fees, providing previously unattainable access to summer internships for 50 students.

PARTNERSHIPS

Westfield State has aggressively expanded partnerships with local public school systems and community colleges. Our Springfield-based Reach-to-Teach program engages high school students on a path to teacher licensure with their commitment to eventually teaching in their community. This program will expand to Holyoke.

Recently developed, The Westfield Promise early college program brings Westfield State faculty members into local high schools to team-teach college-level “stretch” courses. This program expands early college opportunities by targeting mid-level students who are not encouraged to consider college. This program enrolled 90 students during its pilot year in Westfield, Springfield, and Holyoke. Bringing the University’s RN-to-BSN program to both Springfield Technical Community College and Greenfield Community College’s Northampton location has facilitated better service of our educational partners. Furthermore, agreements have been signed with Greenfield Community College, opening a joint admission venture, as well as the University of Massachusetts Law School for a 3+3 program.

With enrollment growth and our continued status as the most residential of the Massachusetts state universities, we have continued to invest in residential lives. A state-of-the-art residence hall opened in 2013 to house 411 students. The creation of living learning communities (LLC) have provided essential development opportunities for our students. Popular LLCs include LGBTQIA (i.e., supporting students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex and asexual or allied) and Pave the Way (i.e., first-year, transfer, and first-generation students with easier access to urban education and TRiO resources, among others). In addition, resident assistants have designed an event/discussion/short course with faculty members to strengthen connections among the campus community.

In 2016, Westfield State transitioned to a self-operated dining program with three goals; improve meal quality, support the regional economy by buying local, and become a more sustainable program. Through a partnership with the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Westfield Dining Services has shared best practices, healthy food sources, and programmatic resources. By all measures, the new dining program is a success and will be leveraged with the student housing program to provide a high-quality residential experience.
WORKFORCE
With more than 1,000,000 adults in Massachusetts with some college education or an associates degree, according to the US Census Bureau, there is an expansive set of learners who will need continued workforce training, degree completion, or life-long learning opportunities.

Partnerships with local and regional employers are crucial to meet the workforce needs of the Commonwealth. The environmental scan (see page 11) supports the importance of our long-standing and nascent partnerships with community colleges, public school districts, local businesses and organizations like the Economic Development Council, Greater Westfield and Springfield Chambers of Commerce and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

We are prepared to expand and update the workforce in Massachusetts in the most needed occupations in the Pioneer Valley and in the Commonwealth: nursing, accounting, social work, information technology and education.

New certificate programs, satellite site programs, stackable credit options, revision of legacy programs geared toward innovation and career pathways provide options for Westfield State University to reach and serve the learners of the Commonwealth. The Center for Innovation in Education and Industry Partnerships will play a central role in that endeavor.

HIGHER EDUCATION TRENDS

ROI
The value of a college degree is in question nationally as the cost of a degree outpaces subsequent growth in income. Colleges are being asked to establish and sustain a greater return on investment model.

ACCOUNTABILITY
The public is insisting on greater transparency about student outcomes and program performance.

NEW DELIVERY MODELS
Accelerated degrees, industry accreditation, and low-cost degrees are opening the post-secondary educational marketplace to a wider range of learners.

PERSONALIZATION
Student-centered, active learning is emphasized, along with a rejection of the “one size fits all” approach to education.

MICRO-LEARNING
Delivering content to learners in small, specific bursts over time or just when needed enables students to progress at their own pace.

HIGH-VELOCITY LEARNING
Active problem-solving experiences such as games, simulations, and role playing can be more effective teaching strategies for today’s learners.

NON-TRADITIONAL ENROLLMENT GROWTH
Enrollments by older students are projected to grow twice as fast as those of traditional students from 2012–2022. This group is more concerned about money/cost of college, so financial aid leveraging is critical.

DIFFERING LEARNING MODELS AND MEDIA
Non-traditional students are more open to digital learning options, and prefer other adaptive/collaborative learning settings. Flexibility is key to the other time demands and obligations they face.

DISRUPTIVE PROVIDERS
Continued growth of new, “disruptive” providers, challenging traditional degree credentialing, and focusing on outcomes such as job placements, advancement, and salaries.

COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION MODELS
These models, along with data driven outcomes assessment, and progress tracking are growing in popularity.
STEP 1: FORMATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

GOAL: ENGAGE A BROAD BASE OF CAMPUS COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Consists of representatives from across the campus including faculty, staff, students, and administration as well as two trustees, invited to serve as special guests at each meeting.

STEP 2: CAMPUS KICK-OFF

GOAL: PROVIDE THE COMMUNITY WITH AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS AND GENERATE SUPPORT

- Established a strategic planning website and email address to ensure that members of the community had consistent access to information.
- On September 8, 2017, DHE Commissioner Dr. Carlos Santiago came to Westfield State and conveyed the crucial message that we must prepare our campus for a shifting student population and attend to the economic need of the region. The kick-off event began with a meeting with the strategic planning steering committee followed by a campus-wide town hall and a reception.
- Over 200 members of our campus community attended the Strategic Planning Kick-off event.

STEP 3: CAMPUS DIRECTION

GOAL: INITIAL INPUT FROM THE CAMPUS REGARDING THE DIRECTION OF THE PLAN.

Focus Groups
- 12 focus groups
- 77 participants (students, staff, faculty, trustees, alumni & foundation members)

Focus group highlights
- Beautiful, safe campus
- Caring faculty and staff
- Extensive student support services
- Wide array of academic programs
- Aging infrastructure
- Talent loss
- Issues related to poor communication
STEP 4: DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC GOALS

GOAL: INPUT FROM THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY TO DETERMINE THE STRATEGIC GOALS

An online survey was utilized to conduct a SWOT analysis. The survey was open to all faculty, staff, administrators, Board of Trustee members, and a random sample of the student population. The survey contained both closed-ended and open-ended questions and included items addressing topics such as academic programs, campus climate and resources.

The survey was sent to over 7,000 possible participants and was completed by nearly 700 Westfield State stakeholders.

Participation rates: 70% college administrators, 45% trustees, 47% full-time faculty, 30% of staff. Adjunct faculty, alumni, and students’ response rates were 4%, 5% and 7% respectively.

SWOT Survey: Key Quantitative Results

Of seven potential university initiatives (opportunities) offered on the survey, those of highest priority to respondents were:

- Improve communications and open discussion across the Westfield State community
- Emphasize programs that make Westfield State unique
- Strengthen Westfield State’s infrastructure to support academic and administrative operations and functions

When asked to rate the extent to which nine factors could prevent Westfield State from achieving its educational mission, respondents most frequently selected the following:

- Budget constraints for salaries, financial assistance, recruitment efforts
- Lack of responsiveness to changing student expectations and needs
- Trends that are impacting all of higher education

Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement with a number of statements about Westfield State within broad institutional categories. Those items with 75%+ respondent agreement included:

**Institutional Environment/Culture**
- Westfield State is a good place to learn

**Academics**
- Westfield State students are encouraged to be involved in internships

**Student Engagement**
- Westfield State offers appropriate academic support for students
- Westfield State cares about student success

**Facilities**
- Westfield State library is appropriate to meet the needs of the institution
Overall, fewer respondents expressed agreement with the statements related to Communication at the University than any other category, and this was particularly true for the following statements:

- Westfield State communication is top-down, and bottom-up
- Communication between the Westfield State administration and faculty/staff is good.

Also of note, senior administrators agreed that communication between the Westfield State administration and faculty/staff is good at more than twice the rate of faculty or staff (59% vs. 29% and 26%, respectively).

**SWOT Survey: Key Qualitative Results**

Open-ended items yielded direction in specific areas. For example, the results of the qualitative items indicate that we are in need of work in:

- Creating an inclusive environment for students, faculty and staff
- Modernizing the curriculum
- Updating our use of technology in a variety of areas
- Making processes and procedures more manageable for students
- Being transparent in decision-making
STEP 5: ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

GOAL: ASSESS THE ENVIRONMENT FOR WESTFIELD STATE OVER THE NEXT DECADE AND MORE TO ADD CONTEXT TO OUR PLANNING

The consulting firm provided Westfield State with an environmental scan that combined data from a variety of local, regional, and national sources.

Key Findings Westfield State enrollment:
- Over the last decade, total enrollments across the MA state colleges increased 14%. Westfield State exceeds the system average, but ranks third in total enrollment growth (22%)
- Westfield State’s undergraduate enrollment growth in the last decade (20%) is also third highest among the MA state universities
- Graduate enrollments at most of Massachusetts’ state colleges declined, but Westfield State grew its graduate student body by 50% over the last 10 years
- Nearly three-quarters of Westfield State’s transfer students (72%) originate from the Massachusetts community colleges, ranking it first among the state universities (61% average)

Key findings workforce data:
Occupations with the largest number of annual job openings requiring a college degree through 2024 include:
- Registered nurses, general and operations managers, accountants and auditors, software developers, preschool teachers, management analysts, elementary school teachers, and financial managers

The fastest growing occupations through 2024 requiring a college degree in Massachusetts include:
- Nurse practitioners, physical therapists, clinical counseling and school psychologists, personal financial advisors, registered nurses, and market research analysts.

The Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts identifies the region’s largest industries as follows:
- Aerospace, creative economy, entrepreneur resources, financial services, health care, hidden tech, information technology, life sciences, manufacturing, medical devices, plastics, renewable energy, and tourism

There is a significant regional industry sector which requires STEM related credentials, including aerospace and other technical occupations

Key findings national trends:
- Shifting Demographics – Public flagship institutions are growing out-of-state share of entering freshman classes. Therefore, regional public colleges and universities pick up more of the in-state students who have fewer choices.
- Non-traditional Enrollment Growth – Enrollments by older students are projected to grow twice as fast as those of traditional students from 2012 to 2022. This group is more concerned about money/cost of college, so financial aid leveraging is critical.
STEP 6: ANALYZE THE DATA
GOAL: BRING A SET OF GENERAL STRATEGIC CONCEPTS TO THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY AND DEVELOP THOSE CONCEPTS

“Campus Dialogue Sessions,” members of the strategic planning committee conducted open sessions where community members were asked to engage with each other in small group, guided discussions of each of the strategic concepts derived from the focus group and survey data.

Participants: Over 170 members of the campus community participated in dialogue sessions in the month of March. Data from these sessions was used to expand on the strategic concepts to create draft strategic goals.

The draft strategic goals were then brought to each division by vice presidents for refinement and comment. More than 100 participants at this stage, including department chairs, and other leaders, first in an online working session and then in in-person working sessions designed to refine the goals and begin to build a pool of strategic priorities and strategies to support the goals.

In an interactive process, the data from these sessions was reviewed by the President’s cabinet to ensure cross divisional planning. The priorities were refined and then reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Strategic Planning.
STEP 7: PRESENTATION OF MATERIALS

GOAL: REVIEW PROGRESS AND PREPARE TO FILE

In June, separate retreats were held for both the Board of Trustees (BOT) and the cabinet.

At the BOT retreat, the strategic plan, thus far, was presented to the members of the board. The members of the board explored their role in promoting the strategic goals, including suggesting initiatives and action steps exclusive to the BOT, as well as articulating their role in supporting the action steps proposed by the campus community. BOT members will take part in discussions of the ongoing work of measuring the success of the plan as it is implemented, as well as their role in providing financial support for the plan through the institution’s budgeting process.

At the cabinet retreat, the members of cabinet reviewed the work done within divisions to refine strategies and initiatives.

During the fall semester, the university brought forth a successful Touch Point II presentation to the Board of Higher Education. The Strategic Planning Committee met repeatedly with the aim of providing an organizational template to record initiative and action step information gathered from the divisions to synthesize into the implementation plan and to provide direction to divisional vice presidents. The development of the implementation or operational plan needed to be localized work, meaning that it took place inside the divisions and then was submitted for refinement and inclusion into a usable plan. Strategic Planning Committee members attended three All-University Committee meetings to discuss the emergent plan and the Board of Trustees was updated throughout the semester. The division of Administration and Finance refined the budget planning process to align resource allocation processes to support the strategic plan. Information sessions regarding budget process are being presented in early spring.
Our work on the mission, vision and values was a process of reaffirmation and refinement. With input from the community, the Strategic Planning Committee worked to create a more succinct mission, vision, and values statement while maintaining our core principles.

**Mission**

Westfield State University is a public institution offering accessible quality undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional studies. Our welcoming community focuses on student engagement and success. We contribute to the economic, social, and cultural growth of the northeast region by developing the knowledge, skills, and character essential for students to become responsible leaders and engaged citizens.

**Vision**

Westfield State University strives to be the premier public comprehensive institution in the Northeast region through its commitment to student engagement and success.

**Values**

Westfield State University commits to values that strengthen a common bond among all members of our community. These values represent a commitment to others, a commitment to ourselves, and a commitment to a diverse learning environment where everyone is respected.

**OUR VALUES:**

**EMBRACE DIVERSITY:**
We treat all members of our community with dignity and respect.

**BUILD A STRONG COMMUNITY:**
We are inclusive and ensure equity, supporting the personal development of all community members, and embracing multiple perspectives.

**MAINTAIN EXCELLENCE AND INTEGRITY:**
We maintain excellence and integrity in all that we do.

**ENGAGE IN THE OUTSIDE COMMUNITY:**
We support civic engagement in local, regional, and global initiatives.

**COLLABORATE WITH EACH OTHER:**
We make decisions in a transparent and collaborative manner.

**PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION:**
We commit to providing an accessible, affordable public higher education for all.
Each of our university-wide strategic goals and priorities is developed to align directly with or to support the system-wide goals of **increasing college participation**, **college completion**, and **closing achievement gaps**. The strategies most directly impactful on the Westfield State student body, 94% of whom are sons and daughters of the Commonwealth, are mapped below onto the system-wide goals to which they are most closely matched. Priorities which act directly on the university as an organizational entity are not mapped here, as they attend uniformly to establishing the foundations of financial health and operational efficiencies required to meet system-wide goals.

### COLLEGE PARTICIPATION
- Revise the common core
- Reform legacy programs geared toward innovation and career pathways
- Build new and responsive undergraduate stackable credit options
- Assess and enhance student activities for residential and commuter students
- Increase academic profile of the university
- Institute Enrollment 101
- Increase coordination between divisions to advance stakeholder engagement in recruiting, retaining and mentoring students
- Develop additional 3+1, 3+2, 4+1 programs to serve the emerging northeast demographic
- Expand partnerships with local public-school systems for early college, including the Westfield Promise
- Commit institutional resources to financial aid
- Cultivate existing donors to increase endowed scholarship amounts
- Enact institutional values in everyday communication
- Implement and coordinate diversity and inclusion practices, policies and programs across the entire campus

### COLLEGE COMPLETION
- Build new and responsive undergraduate stackable credit options
- Analyze and enhance the academic advising structure and process
- Create a seamless experience for day and CGCE students
- Institute Enrollment 101
- Increase coordination between divisions to advance stakeholder engagement in recruiting, retaining, mentoring students
- Expand partnerships with local public-school systems for early college, including the Westfield Promise
- Commit institutional resources to financial aid
- Cultivate existing donors to increase endowed scholarship amounts
- Enact institutional values in everyday communication
- Seek opportunities to build community
- Implement and coordinate diversity and inclusion practices, policies and programs across the entire campus
- Develop adaptable technologies to support the student experience

### CLOSING ACHIEVEMENT GAPS
- Implement Westfield State Experience programming and create synergy among existing student support programs such as TRIO, Urban Ed, Banacos Center, Reading and Writing Center
- Increase coordination between divisions to advance stakeholder engagement in recruiting, retaining, mentoring students
- Enact institutional values in everyday communication
- Seek opportunities to build community
- Implement and coordinate diversity and inclusion practices, policies and programs across the entire campus
- Develop adaptable technologies to support the student experience

### COLOR KEY
- **Red**: THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE
- **Blue**: ENROLLMENT
- **Yellow**: CULTURE
- **Green**: RESOURCES
THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE
As a teaching institution our focus has always been on our students. Naming the student experience as our central strategic priority keeps our focus on our mission, reinforcing for us that our goal is to provide access to an exceptional student experience both in and out of the classroom for all of our students.

ENROLLMENT
The institution needs to face, head on, the data which indicate a consistent and dramatic decrease in the population of high school-aged individuals in Massachusetts and the northeast region. We must prepare to welcome and support an increasingly diverse population of students and recognize that their needs may differ. Strategic enrollment management will prepare us for the shifting demographics and support our mission to contribute to the economic, social and cultural growth of our region.

CULTURE
Attention to the culture of the institution provides the opportunity to prioritize programs and initiatives that support our values including diversity, inclusion, respect, and collaboration while improving communication in all directions. The stronger our institutional culture, the better the experience for our students.

RESOURCES
In light of the continued decline in financial support from the state and the shifting demographics of the student population, the institution must engage in extensive and sustained development of, and planning for, resources of all types to insure a stable institution and implementation of mission critical initiatives that support student success.
GOAL 1:
THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE: ACCESS TO A FULLY INTEGRATED AND EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

PRIORITY 1.1 REVISE THE COMMON CORE
PRIORITY 1.2 SUPPORT ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING KEEPING IN MIND LIBERAL ARTS COMPETENCIES AND EMERGENT CAREER PATHWAYS
PRIORITY 1.3 PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULT AND COMMUNITY PARTNER LEARNERS
PRIORITY 1.4 OPTIMIZE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE THROUGH CLEAR PROCESS AND PARTNERSHIP

GOAL 2:
ENROLLMENT: PREPARE TO RECRUIT, WELCOME, AND SUPPORT STUDENTS IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT

PRIORITY 2.1 ENGAGE THE ENTIRE CAMPUS IN THE WORK OF RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, GRADUATION
PRIORITY 2.2 SUPPORT STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT TO REACH A MORE DIVERSE POPULATION OF STUDENTS
PRIORITY 2.3 INCREASE FINANCIAL AID

GOAL 3:
CULTURE: CONSISTENTLY LIVE OUR INSTITUTIONAL VALUES

PRIORITY 3.1 CREATE A COLLABORATIVE, TRANSPARENT AND COMMUNICATIVE ENVIRONMENT THAT CELEBRATES ACCOMPLISHMENT AND INSTILLS PRIDE IN THE INSTITUTION
PRIORITY 3.2 ENACT INSTITUTIONAL VALUES IN EVERYDAY COMMUNICATION
PRIORITY 3.3 ADOPT INCLUSION EVERYDAY AS AN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

GOAL 4:
RESOURCES: EXPAND THE INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES

PRIORITY 4.1 DIVERSIFY REVENUE SOURCES BY SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES
PRIORITY 4.2 OPTIMIZE USE OF CURRENT RESOURCES UTILIZING TRANSPARENT PROCESSES
PRIORITY 4.3 INVEST IN UPGRADING AND IMPLEMENTING TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS
GOAL 1:
THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE: ACCESS TO A FULLY INTEGRATED AND EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

As a teaching institution our focus has always been on our students. Naming the student experience as our central strategic goal keeps our focus on our mission reinforcing for us our goal to provide access to an exceptional student experience both in and out of the classroom—for all of our students.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1.1 REVISE THE COMMON CORE

1.2 SUPPORT ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING KEEPING IN MIND LIBERAL ARTS COMPETENCIES AND EMERGENT CAREER PATHWAYS

1.3 OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULT AND COMMUNITY PARTNER LEARNERS

1.4 OPTIMIZE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP AND PROCESS

1.1 COMMON CORE REVISION

The structure of a revised common core will ensure transfer and degree pathways with community college partners, as well as opportunities for early college experiences through K-12 partnerships.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION ITEMS</th>
<th>MEASURES OF SUCCESS</th>
<th>START</th>
<th>COMPLETE</th>
<th>LEADER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core committee established</td>
<td>Committee convened and working</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Provost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core committee gathers data to analyze core</td>
<td>Data analyzed and processed and presented to constituents</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Core reform committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Models selected by core committee</td>
<td>Models available for review by campus constituents</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Core reform committee and Academic Affairs Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of the core assigned</td>
<td>Director begins and assumes leadership of core management</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Provost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departmental and university curriculum committee processes completed</td>
<td>Academic departments and university transition to core structure</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Academic Affairs Departments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.2 SUPPORT ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING KEEPING IN MIND LIBERAL ARTS COMPETENCIES AND EMERGENT CAREER PATHWAYS

To make the academic landscape of the institution responsive to the emergent needs of the Commonwealth our plan includes provisions to support existing academic programs as they engage disciplinary developments and workforce needs (e.g., Criminal Justice, Education, and Business) and add critical mission programs (e.g., Integrated Health). Additionally, the institution will develop robust graduate and certificate programming in areas defined as high need in the Northeast and in the Commonwealth, informed by data on best practices and needs articulated by the Workforce Skills Cabinet (e.g., health care, financial services).

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<tr>
<th>ACTION ITEMS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide for innovation and strengthening in academic programming through research and regular program review</td>
<td>Review four programs per year</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Provost and College Deans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Follow-up appropriately: e.g., develop graduate programs and interdisciplinary connections</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Provost and College Deans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Explore creative alliances and program development: e.g., including the creation of Health Administration in MPA &amp; Health Policy Concentration within MSW and MPA</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Provost and College Deans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create and adjust programs to meet emergent workforce needs (e.g., financial services, human services)</td>
<td>Examine feasibility and possible programs: e.g., including Bioinformatics and Data Science in Mathematics and Computer and Information Sciences; rehabilitation and recovery orientations in Criminal Justice, early childhood non-licensure programming, Accounting 4+1, Accounting B.S., division of Economics and Management into three areas</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>College Deans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hybrid and delivery modalities documented systematically and expanded</td>
<td>Hybrid learning environments infused throughout the curriculum with targeted percent of university courses offered online and hybrid</td>
<td>In progress</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>College Deans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# PRIORITY 1.3 OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULT, TRANSFER STUDENT, AND INDUSTRY PARTNER LEARNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION STEPS</th>
<th>MEASURES OF SUCCESS</th>
<th>START</th>
<th>COMPLETE</th>
<th>LEAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prior learning assessments, building on grant funding provided by the DHE AY2018</td>
<td>Clear process established and communicated regarding use of PLA</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Dean, CGCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities provided to engage both current employees, entrepreneurs and adult learners through CIEIP partnerships</td>
<td>Develop 2 learning partnerships per year (e.g., Mercy Medical)</td>
<td>Initiated</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>New director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create new degree pathways with community college partners</td>
<td>4 pathways articulated and implemented in psychology, education, criminal justice, business</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Dean, Undergraduate Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates and stackable credit programs launched following market research and feasibility studies</td>
<td>Certificates might include specific skills (e.g., computer skill sets, medical translation) or content areas (e.g., anti-racist pedagogy, critical pedagogy)</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Dean, CGCE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRIORITY 1.4 OPTIMIZE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP AND PROCESS

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<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assess advising structure across the campus: faculty, professional, programmatic</td>
<td>70% of students entering as first year and undeclared, declare a major after accumulation of 30 credits</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Dean, Undergraduate Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100% of students declare major after accumulation of 70 credits</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Dean, Undergraduate Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliminate administrative barriers between day and CGCE students</td>
<td>Registration, billing and advising revised to “one-stop” model for day and CGCE students</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Dean CGCE, Registrar, Dir. Financial Aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess residential life programming</td>
<td>Fresh Eyes report reviewed and implemented</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Dir. Res. Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement the Westfield State Experience programming</td>
<td>100% first year courses include student mentors</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Deans: SA and AA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First year read implemented with first year write</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Deans: SA and AA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emerging leaders programming coordinated with enhanced residential curriculum programming</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Deans: SA and AA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“The first six weeks” implemented</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Deans: SA and AA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High impact practices implemented across all four years of a student experience</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Deans: SA and AA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20% increase in Career Center appointments each year</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Deans: SA and AA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for younger learners</td>
<td>Scale up Westfield Promise in Holyoke, Springfield, Westfield</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Dean, CGCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Expand Westfield Promise to two new communities</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Dean, CGCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand dual admission</td>
<td>Solidify dual admission, processes, and agreements with GCC, HCC, STCC, BCC</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Provost and VP:EM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GOAL 2:  
ENROLLMENT: PREPARE TO RECRUIT, WELCOME, AND SUPPORT STUDENTS IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 2.1   ENGAGE THE ENTIRE CAMPUS IN THE WORK OF RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, GRADUATION

PRIORITY 2.2   SUPPORT STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT TO REACH A MORE DIVERSE POPULATION OF STUDENTS

PRIORITY 2.3   INCREASE FINANCIAL AID

PRIORITY 2.1 ENGAGE THE ENTIRE CAMPUS IN THE WORK OF RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, GRADUATION

<table>
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<tr>
<th>INITIATIVES TO MEET PRIORITIES</th>
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<th>START</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hold 4 enrollment 101 work-shops per year on best practices in customer service, enrollment, financial aid literacy</td>
<td>100% campus employees provided with training opportunities</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Dir. Admissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web redesign reflects talking points for the campus</td>
<td>100% consistency in messaging &amp; web function</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Dir. Admissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raise academic profile of institution</td>
<td>Grade point average for admitted students from 3.2 to 3.4 over five years</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Dir. Admissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average SAT score moves from 1020 to 1050</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Dir. Admissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market residential life as student success experience</td>
<td>Increased residential population</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>VP: EM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### PRIORITY 2.2 SUPPORT STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT TO REACH A MORE DIVERSE POPULATION OF STUDENTS

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish connection with diverse partners to enhance recruitment and retention of students, staff and employees</td>
<td>Develop two new relationships with community partners, organizations, schools per year</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Division VPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand early college programming of the Westfield Promise</td>
<td>Explore expansion into two new communities</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Dean, CGCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scale-up early college programming of the Westfield Promise to Holyoke, Springfield, Westfield</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Dean, CGCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensify presence of Urban Education programming in recruiting</td>
<td>100% presence of Urban Education alumni at admissions events</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Dir. Urban Ed &amp; Dir. Admissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand dual enrollment with community college partners</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>See Goal 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop additional programs to serve the emerging Northeast demographic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>See Goal 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PRIORITY 2.3 INCREASE FINANCIAL AID

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultivation of existing donors</td>
<td>Increased endowed scholarships by 5 each year</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>VP:IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commit institutional resources to financial aid</td>
<td>Add $150,000 to financial aid each year</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>VP:A&amp;F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop net tuition models</td>
<td>Reduce gap in EFC</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>VP:EM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GOAL 3: CULTURE: CONSISTENTLY LIVE OUR INSTITUTIONAL VALUES

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 3.1 CREATE A COLLABORATIVE, TRANSPARENT AND COMMUNICATIVE ENVIRONMENT THAT CELEBRATES ACCOMPLISHMENT AND INSTILLS PRIDE IN THE INSTITUTION

PRIORITY 3.2 ENACT INSTITUTIONAL VALUES IN EVERYDAY COMMUNICATION

PRIORITY 3.3 ADOPT INCLUSION EVERYDAY AS AN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

PRIORITY 3.1 CREATE A COLLABORATIVE, TRANSPARENT AND COMMUNICATIVE ENVIRONMENT THAT CELEBRATES ACCOMPLISHMENT AND INSTILLS PRIDE IN THE INSTITUTION

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<tr>
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<th>START</th>
<th>COMPLETED</th>
<th>LEAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop institution-wide onboarding and consistent professional development programming</td>
<td>Complete onboarding and professional programming developed for skills, management and leadership training</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Associate VP, HR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% new employees receive onboarding schedule</td>
<td>2020 Ongoing</td>
<td>Associate VP, HR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% existing employees participate in minimum of one PD each year</td>
<td>2020 Ongoing</td>
<td>Associate VP, HR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop additional mechanisms to acknowledge excellence in faculty and staff</td>
<td>Supplement existing showcases, public events, and recognition days with an award platform for team recognition through campus task force</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Associate VP, HR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hold open forums and record them</td>
<td>Two open forums each semester</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Director, Communication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 3.2 Enact Institutional Values in Everyday Communication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>START</th>
<th>COMPLETED</th>
<th>LEAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Web feature points of pride</td>
<td>Web site revised</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Directors Mkt/Comm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognize staff for outstanding accomplishments</td>
<td>Process and procedure developed and promoted for each division</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>VP-Student Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seek opportunities to build community</td>
<td>Rotating full day retreats 2x per year through Academic Affairs</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Provost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement Brown Bag Lunch Series</td>
<td>1x per month series coordinated by task force</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Dir. HR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Priority 3.3 Adopt Inclusion Everyday as an Institutional Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INITIATIVE</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implement and coordinate diversity and inclusion practices, policies and programs across entire campus</td>
<td>Implement case management system for federal compliance programs using cloud-based software with 6 user licenses</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>DO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hire diverse employees across campus</td>
<td>Increase in student Res. Life staff hired who reflect diversity of students</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Deans, Program Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increase in faculty/staff from diverse backgrounds</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Area VPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop communication campaign to address centrality of diversity and inclusion</td>
<td>Communication plan and pieces produced and launched</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Dir. Mktg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create office of diversity</td>
<td>DO, Investigator, Faculty Fellows Div Across Curriculum and HE/HG hired</td>
<td>begun</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>VP:A&amp;F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate study</td>
<td>Implement in years 1 &amp; 5</td>
<td>2019 &amp; 2024</td>
<td>2019 &amp; 2024</td>
<td>Dean, undergraduate studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GOAL 4: RESOURCES: EXPAND THE INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 4.1 DIVERSIFY REVENUE SOURCES BY SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES

PRIORITY 4.2 OPTIMIZE USE OF CURRENT RESOURCES UTILIZING TRANSPARENT PROCESSES

PRIORITY 4.3 INVEST IN UPGRADING AND IMPLEMENTING TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

PRIORITY 4.1 DIVERSIFY REVENUE SOURCES BY SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop financial incentive model to support innovation</td>
<td>Innovation fund established and process for distribution and assessment unrolled</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>VP:A&amp;F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase IA support to the University</td>
<td>25% increase in number of corporate sponsorships and major donors</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>VP:IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase grants and sponsored research funding</td>
<td>Assess functions and establish targets</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Dean of faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase activity and contracts for non-credit activities</td>
<td>Assess possibilities and establish goals</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Dean, CGCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop alternative revenue streams</td>
<td>Develop investment strategy to leverage cash needs</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>VP:A&amp;F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Expand use of campus facilities, including residential life spaces, and services during non-peak periods</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>VP:EM &amp; Dir. Dining Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### PRIORITY 4.2 OPTIMIZE USE OF CURRENT RESOURCES UTILIZING TRANSPARENT PROCESSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>MEASURES OF SUCCESS</th>
<th>START</th>
<th>COMPLETE</th>
<th>LEAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop internal expertise to support simplicity and automation</td>
<td>Decreased number of existing manual processes</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>AVP F&amp;A; ITS CIO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to support simplicity and automation while increasing stakeholder</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>satisfaction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review redundant processes</td>
<td>Invest in automated software products to reduce</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Assoc. VP Budget &amp; Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop more efficient processes</td>
<td>paper forms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop criteria to assess programs and develop threshold for initiating</td>
<td>Number of programs reviewed and modified per</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>All Divisional VP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and maintaining</td>
<td>year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update the campus Master Plan</td>
<td>Identify funding and process to begin planning</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>VPAF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in conjunction with DCAMM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PRIORITY 4.3 INVEST IN UPGRADING AND IMPLEMENTING TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>MEASURES OF SUCCESS</th>
<th>START</th>
<th>COMPLETE</th>
<th>LEAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop adaptable technologies to support student experience per goal</td>
<td>Pathways established for CIT work with faculty</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Dean, AIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>on best-practices</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop 5 year technology plan</td>
<td>Acquisition of Banner Document imaging management</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Dean AIS and CIO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>system, implement cloud based budget planning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess institutional capability for capital campaign</td>
<td>Launch fundraising campaign for Parenzo Hall</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>VP:IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review technology improvements</td>
<td>Identify opportunities to use and implement</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2025</td>
<td>CIO and Dean AIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mobile technologies for student use</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
While we will create initiative specific metrics to assess progress at the action level of the plan, the outcomes of the enactment of the plan should be measured by our persistent overarching goals, which are aligned with the system-wide goals to stabilize enrollment, increase accessibility, increase retention rates, increase graduation rates, and decrease the achievement gap. Below is an assessment of our current status in comparison to our peers with regard to two key critical indicators.

### MASSACHUSETTS STATE UNIVERSITY PEER 2016 RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>ONE YEAR RETENTION RATE FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS (PERCENT)</th>
<th>SIX YEAR GRADUATION RATE (PERCENT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts Maritime Academy</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts College of Art and Design</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Westfield State University</strong></td>
<td>77</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgewater State University</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worcester State University</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Framingham State University</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitchburg State University</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem State University</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The aspirational peer group below was constructed based on an initial list of public institutions, and then a combination of factors including size of undergraduate population, prevalence of full-time vs. part-time students, selectivity and Arts and Sciences and professional program mix. Of the 124 peer institutions who met these criteria, only 11 institutions had both a higher retention rate and six-year graduation rate than Westfield State University. These institutions form our aspirational peer group in the chart below.

### ASPIRATIONAL PEER 2016 RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>ONE YEAR RETENTION RATE FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS (PERCENT)</th>
<th>SIX YEAR GRADUATION RATE (PERCENT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The College of New Jersey</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNY College at Geneseo</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramapo College of New Jersey</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNY Oneonta</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truman State University</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State University of New York at New Paltz</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockton University</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salisbury University</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNY College at Brockport</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Washington-Bothell Campus</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Westfield State University</strong></td>
<td>77</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: IPEDS Fall Enrollment and Graduation Rate Surveys
## COMPLETION, ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY, CLOSING ACHIEVEMENT GAP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAJOR INDICATOR</th>
<th>BASELINE</th>
<th>TARGET</th>
<th>AMBITIOUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STUDENT EXPERIENCE: ACCESS TO A FULLY INTEGRATED, EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-year graduation rate (IPEDS) 2012 cohort base</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four year graduation rate achievement gap B/W (2012 cohort)</td>
<td>-24% pts</td>
<td>-20% pts</td>
<td>-17% pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-year graduation rate achievement gap Latinx/W (2012 cohort)</td>
<td>-10% pts</td>
<td>-8% pts</td>
<td>-6% pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six-year graduation rate (IPEDS)*</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six-year graduation rate: B/W 2010 cohort base</td>
<td>-11% pts</td>
<td>-9% pts</td>
<td>-5% pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six-year graduation rate: Latinx/W 2010 cohort base</td>
<td>-13% pts</td>
<td>-10% pts</td>
<td>-8% pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention rate (IPEDS)</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENROLLMENT: PREPARE TO RECRUIT WELCOME AND SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% students of color**</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease the financial need gap for the highest need students</td>
<td>$4000</td>
<td>$2500</td>
<td>$1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment targets “traditional” students</td>
<td>1050</td>
<td>1050</td>
<td>1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment targets CE undergraduates</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>&gt;5%</td>
<td>&gt;8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment targets graduate students</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CULTURE: CONSISTENTLY LIVE OUR VALUES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% faculty and staff of color</td>
<td>18.85%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate study conducted in year one will provide measure</td>
<td>TBD after survey</td>
<td>TBD after survey</td>
<td>TBD after survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESOURCES: EXPAND INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase philanthropy in support of the institution</td>
<td>$750,000</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent increase in non-tuition/fee revenue***</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain Composite Financial Index (CFI)</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential occupancy goals based on design capacity</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase institutional commitment to financial aid</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$1,250,000</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Given the attributes of our current cohorts we can expect a dip in retention, leaving any increase as a heavy lift

** Overall student body, excluding attribute “unknown”

*** Uses FY19 budget as the basis for the calculation
We are proud of our accomplishments and know that we have provided a more intense focus on student success over the past decade. It is within this context, that Westfield State University moved forward to create an institutional strategic plan encompassing a refined mission, vision and values statement and an aspirational, yet realistic, set of priorities and initiatives designed to move the institution forward in a challenging context. With our continued focus as a teaching institution committed to student success, we set out to take an honest look at the current state of our institution, its strengths and weakness, its programs and its practices. We committed to constructing a plan that built on our tradition as a student-focused institution, as we looked toward adapting for the future.

We learned a great deal from the months of dialogue with our community. The data in all of its forms, reinforced the centrality of our students and our dedication to their success. Members of our community agreed that our strengths include a dedication to student success, a strong array of academic programs, offering substantial student support services and that overall, Westfield State is a good place for students to learn. The data also revealed a general need to update communication, technology, professional development, programs, and resource distribution to keep the institution up-to-date and responsive to changing student expectations and needs. Thus, the work to develop our strategic planning goals, priorities, and strategies, again, emanated from our consistent focus on student success and the factors that would have the most impact on the student experience through the life of the strategic plan and beyond.

Notes

1 The Rise and Fall of the People’s Colleges: The Westfield Normal School, 1839-1914 by Robert T. Brown, Westfield State University retired professor of history, and original director of the Raymond G. Patterson Alumni Archive. These notes are adapted from his previously published writings on the College’s history.

2 http://www.mass.edu/datacenter/home/home.asp

3 http://www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/projections


5 https://www.bncollege.com/Achieving-Success-for-Non-Traditional-Students-01-11-17.pdf
Strategic Planning Committee Members

Dr. Joseph Camilleri, Department of Psychology

Jennifer Carlson, Office of the Registrar

Patrick Carpenter, Institutional Advancement

Dr. Susanne Chuku, Department of Economics and Management

Marcus DiBacco, Student

Dr. Jennifer Hanselman, Department of Biology

Dr. Susan Leggett, Office of the President

Richard Lenfest, Athletics

Angelo Mazza, Trades & Grounds

Dr. Enrique Morales-Diaz, Department of Language and Culture Studies

Dr. Diane Prusank, Academic Affairs

Arielyss Santiago, Student

Dr. Rosemary Sullivan, Department of Social Work

Stephen Taksar, Finance and Administration

Dr. Hugo Viera, Department of Language and Culture Studies