



NDSU NORTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY

OUR FUTURE

INNOVATION, OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

NDSU STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2026



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NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY



4 MARCH 2021

The action plan was prepared by the NDSU Strategic Planning Committee with facilitated support from the Collaborative Brain Trust in support of the *North Dakota State University Strategic Plan 2020-2025 – Our Future Today: Innovation, Outreach and Education.*

Through its land-grant mission, NDSU serves the state and the region through student education, service to the state, and research and creative endeavors.

The NDSU community prioritizes and values diversity and inclusion. We take collective responsibility for ensuring a sense of belonging, respect, and justice that supports each person's success.

VISION STATEMENT

To lead the advancement of our land-grant ideals through innovative education, research, and outreach.

MISSION STATEMENT

We provide transformational education, create knowledge through innovative research, and share knowledge through community engagement that meets the needs of North Dakota and the world.

CORE VALUES

The keystone to the success of the NDSU strategic plan is our commitment to shared governance, transparency, responsible decision-making, and a sustainable future. The strategic plan is based on the following NDSU core values:

Collegiality
Inclusivity
Community
Creativity
Excellence
Impact
Innovation
Integrity
Resilience
Responsiveness
Transformation

INTRODUCTION » PRESIDENT DEAN L. BRESCIANI



It is truly exciting to contemplate the opportunities that lie ahead for North Dakota State University. In the next few years, I have no doubt that we will solidify and enhance our reputation as a leading student-focused, land-grant, research university.

“Our Future: Innovation, Outreach and Education” is NDSU’s strategic plan for 2021-2026. It is a thoughtful, deliberative and thorough examination of how NDSU can and will meet the changing needs of our state, nation and world.

NDSU’s Strategic Planning Committee, with input from university administrators and others, has prepared this excellent report that will serve as NDSU’s roadmap for continued success.

This is an action plan that will help ensure a bright future for NDSU. As you read through these pages, you’ll understand what I mean.

This document concisely lays out our institutional goals in several areas:

- Diversity, Inclusivity and Respect
- Student Success and Achievement
- Research and Creative Activity
- Education, Extension and Outreach
- Resource Planning and Development

For generations, NDSU’s dedicated and talented faculty, staff and students have addressed the challenges of citizens we serve. Every person at NDSU has an important role as we collectively provide quality education, innovative research and outstanding service to the public and our stakeholders. We are a forward-thinking institution, and “Our Future: Innovation, Outreach and Education” is another example of that.

I encourage NDSU personnel, alumni, friends and corporate partners to embrace the goals of this action plan; it is a pathway to great things.

DEAN L. BRESCIANI
NDSU President

DIVERSITY, INCLUSIVITY, AND RESPECT

Create and maintain an open and collegial environment to promote inclusivity and diversity as a cornerstone of education, research, and outreach.

The cornerstone of diversity is inclusivity, moving beyond tolerance and encompassing support and appreciation. NDSU must intentionally recruit, engage, include, and support students, faculty, staff, and administrators from all backgrounds, including but not limited to first-generation students, international students, persons with disabilities, Indigenous communities, veterans, student parents, communities of color, New Americans, LGBTQ+, adult learners, and those who continue to be underrepresented and who remain on the margins. Our commitment to diversity, inclusivity, and collegiality is critical to serving our communities and our land-grant mission. Programming, curriculum, outreach opportunities, and policies that embrace inclusivity, collegiality, and connectivity will enrich the NDSU community with a variety of viewpoints and foster the creativity and vitality that come with increased diversity.

Sub-Goal

Continuously improve the university climate for students, faculty, staff, and all stakeholders, with additional consideration of underrepresented groups as evidenced by regular assessment.

Sub-Goal

Strengthen and secure an accessible and equitable university for our diverse body of students, faculty, staff, and administration.

Sub-Goal

Design and implement additional programming, curriculum, outreach opportunities, and policies that uphold inclusivity, diversity, respect, and connection.



STUDENT SUCCESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

Provide transformational experiences for students from diverse backgrounds through high-quality education and opportunities for personal and professional development.

NDSU supports all students in their academic success and provides growth opportunities to foster achievement outside the classroom and beyond graduation. We are dedicated to providing a campus environment that welcomes diversity, values inclusion, and supports individuality and well-being to enable all students’ success. We will provide opportunities that challenge students to develop personally and professionally to broaden their understanding of the world and their responsibility as citizens.

Our best recruiting tool is an engaged, supported, and successful student body. Our best retention tool is our faculty, administration, and staff because they carry our values to enhance our students’ success. Living out our motto—as a distinctive student-focused, land grant, research university—is our path to being a successful and healthy university and improving our community, state, region, and world.

Sub-Goal

Provide inclusive and collaborative opportunities to prepare students to be successful in a diverse and globally connected world.

Sub-Goal

Improve students’ academic success with outcome-based, experiential learning opportunities and vital student-support services.

Sub-Goal

Provide students opportunities for personal and professional development to support their life and career goals.

Sub-Goal

Foster a supportive environment focused on all students’ well-being.





GLOBAL

RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

Advance NDSU's stature as a nationally and internationally recognized research university, engage in transformative research and creative activity, and increase the quality and quantity of scholarly activities to generate new insights and knowledge that will benefit the state and address central challenges of our global future.

NDSU is committed to contributing to a high quality of life and a prosperous future for our state and region by carrying out research that addresses central challenges that North Dakota's communities and industries are facing. We aim to engage all of our stakeholders – faculty, staff, students, and external partners – in top-quality research and scholarship that is relevant to local and global challenges, especially as it relates to agricultural production and food systems, manufacturing and material science, biomedical research, cybersecurity, the sustainability of natural resources, and the livability of rural communities. Through research education and training of undergraduate and graduate students, we build a highly educated workforce for our regional and global economy. We strive for excellence in disseminating our research results through peer-reviewed publications, creative works, teaching, and outreach efforts. Simultaneously, our creative activities make NDSU a hub for culture and the exchange of ideas.



Sub-Goal

Increase the commitment of financial resources to support sustainable research growth with public impact.

Sub-Goal

Enhance the diversity of undergraduate, graduate, and faculty researchers.

Sub-Goal

Integrate and strengthen centralized administrative and academic support for research and creative activity.

Sub-Goal

Create an administrative framework to encourage and support multidisciplinary research teams.

Sub-Goal

Prioritize highly effective mission-relevant research programs through strategic and systematic resource reallocation.

Sub-Goal

Support and ensure high-quality research education for postdoctoral fellows, graduate, and undergraduate students.

EDUCATION, EXTENSION AND OUTREACH

Provide innovative, student-centered education and conduct transformative research that impacts the state through meaningful outreach.

NDSU provides a first-class 21st-century education for learners of all ages and backgrounds that renders them career-ready and prepared for a lifetime of learning and change. We aim to engage in high-quality research and scholarship relevant to local and global stakeholders and disseminated through Extension and outreach efforts to improve prosperity and the quality of life in North Dakota in every county. Our success in telling the story of what drives NDSU to lead the way in innovative education and transformative research is key to attracting high-quality, diverse undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, collaborators, and partners.



PEDAGOGY

Sub-Goal

Increase educational achievement and improvement through ongoing assessment of student learning outcomes across the University.

Sub-Goal

Increase the use of innovative instructional methods and delivery options for career-ready students.

TECHNOLOGY/DELIVERY

Sub-Goal

Establish a university-wide infrastructure and support for cutting-edge technology and digital tools to meet the needs for education, research, and outreach.

PROGRAMS

Sub-Goal

Evaluate academic programs to prioritize and restructure existing programs and grow high-impact academic programs tailored for recruitment and retention, to optimize resources, and to meet the demand of our Land-Grant mission.

EXTENSION AND OUTREACH

Sub-Goal

Broaden partnerships with citizens, communities, and businesses to address the educational, cultural, and technical needs of North Dakota and the region.

Sub-Goal

Optimize resource allocation to enhance existing programs targeted at meeting labor force demands regionally and nationally.



PLANET

RESOURCE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

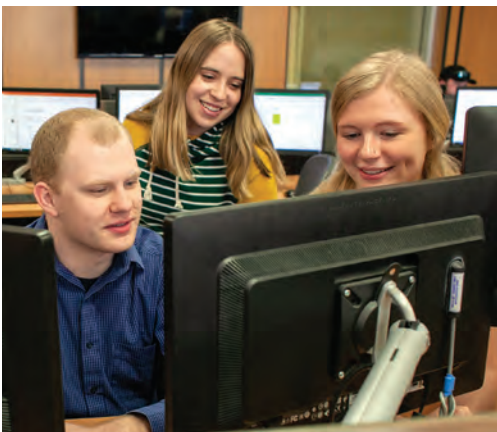
Support and enhance innovation and excellence through strategic investments in sustainable infrastructure.

North Dakota State University's backbone is the people, places, processes, technology, and financial resources that make up our infrastructure. We are committed to the effective stewardship of resources and responsible investment in infrastructure that will support this strategic plan's goals and allow us to pursue continuous improvement. Strategic prioritization and a flexible approach to resource allocation will allow us to remain resilient and responsive as global events, changes in higher education, and access to new technology dramatically impact the work we do.

Sub-Goal
Prioritize resources for institutional effectiveness based on strategic plan initiatives.

Sub-Goal
Provide support and incentives for units to innovate and be entrepreneurial.

Sub-Goal
Develop and implement an institution-wide strategy for technology, data, and information use that improves student education and experiences, enhances research capabilities and supports organizational decision-making.



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