

Thursday, August 28, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

For many months, the Monmouth University community utilized numerous mechanisms and venues to engage the campus community in the strategic planning process. We are thankful for so many campus colleagues who devoted countless hours to search for best practices, share fresh ideas, define the meaning of the Monmouth experience for our students, and discuss the role of the strategic plan as a catalyst for change. We collectively questioned how Monmouth University programs can increase their relevance, in what ways new initiatives can ensure a transformative learning process for *all* students, and how our students' point of view can be broadened to include global concerns and issues outside of themselves. Members of the strategic plan steering committee worked through the summer to analyze survey data, round table and discussion table notes, and colleague observations to formulate the basis of the strategic plan.

The master outline of the strategic plan is now available on the portal at <https://my.monmouth.edu/Pages/strategicplan.aspx>. It is a work in progress, and a more complete document with narrative will be shared with the campus community soon. As you review the document, please note that the *Core Elements for the Transformative Learning Experience* emerged as the strategic areas that will hold our attention in the years to come. For each of these elements, there is a set of strategies and a list of potential measures of attainment for us to use as we gauge our progress.

Discussions with the President are now beginning to focus on the plan's implementation. More details will follow this Fall on the processes and team that will be tasked with helping to navigate the best ways to implement the plan. Together with many colleagues on campus, the Provost will take a lead role in this effort.

The strategic plan steering committee shared the master outline with members of cabinet, deans, department chairs, and many Monmouth thought leaders. Overall, feedback has been very positive and supportive, indicating that the plan is comprehensive and aligns with campus aspirations and strengthens our ongoing commitment to deliver a transformative experience to our students.

Please join us to discuss the strategic plan at the following forums:

September 18, 2014 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Strategic Plan Open Forum – Wilson Auditorium

September 18, 2014 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Strategic Plan Open Forum – Wilson Auditorium

September 22, 2014 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Strategic Plan Administrators Forum – Wilson Auditorium

September 24, 2014 4:30 p.m. – Strategic Plan Final Forum – Wilson Auditorium

Please note that the final forum will conclude the strategic planning process. This will mark the point at which we conclude our planning journey on campus. Together with the President, we have been informing the Board of Trustees of our progress as a community throughout this planning journey. Final Board discussions on the plan will take place at upcoming fall meetings with the Board as we begin our work together to implement the core elements of the plan.

Sincerely,

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee