



The Strategic Plan for Delaware State University
PRIDE 2020: Personal Responsibility in Delivering Excellence

Goal 3: Research and Scholarship



GOAL 3: RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Increase and sustain excellence in scholarly and creative research that addresses significant state, regional, national and global challenges

Research and scholarship are central to the University's land-grant mission and are significantly relevant to advancing knowledge, improving the quality of life in our state and nation, and improving the state's economy and global competitiveness. While increasing our focus on research, we believe that student success is increased when our instructional faculty is actively engaged in research, scholarship and artistic endeavors. In short, we will continue to offer a high quality undergraduate education with targeted areas of excellence in research and graduate education.

Our research or discovery enterprise is intentionally interdisciplinary and innovative. This enterprise includes such critical areas as biomedical research, neuroscience, optics, renewable energy, water quality, health disparities and research in the social and behavioral sciences. DSU faculty and student researchers work in laboratories, in communities, on the campus, across the state and around the world to find solutions to the complex problems and issues that adversely affect our life quality. Going forward, we will conceptually and operationally define a succinct set of research clusters that will make significant advances and important discoveries, push the boundaries of knowledge, and create technologies that can benefit the lives of Delawareans, the nation and the world. These research clusters will be highly correlated with our academic mission areas and will guide resource allocation.

- **OBJECTIVE 3.1: Increase research productivity in grants, scholarly publications, creative activities, innovation and patents by 50 percent in five years**

Key Action Strategies:

- Conduct an assessment of existing research activities to include funding, and patent and intellectual property.
- Develop a University-wide research plan that is interdisciplinary and collaborative and includes the development of research clusters and niche areas.
- Develop incentives for faculty to seek external support for research and reward collaboration and partnership successes.
- Increase the number of inventions, disclosures, patents and technology commercialization.

- **OBJECTIVE 3.2: Increase, strengthen and sustain the support systems and infrastructure to assist faculty, staff and students in all aspects of their research endeavors**

Key Action Strategies:

- Build a world class research facility dedicated to the field of optics.
- Create incubators and incubator space for targeted research.
- Create a Research Facilities Task Force to analyze and report on existing facilities, equipment and instrumentation and to develop an improvement plan to upgrade and optimize our inventory.
- Develop an online database of all existing physical infrastructure components so that researchers know what is available, where it exists, and if/how it is available for use.
- Hire a full-time grants/research officer to assist in grant searches and prepare the administrative and budget components of the grant applications.
- Develop a faculty mentor program, especially with non-tenured faculty, to encourage and support research.
- Enhance technology (hardware and software) to support the research enterprise.
- Strengthen relationships with federal research agencies and work aggressively to influence them to support DSU proposals.

- **OBJECTIVE 3.3: Provide opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in research**

Key Action Strategies:

- Involve undergraduate students in research programs and activities starting in the freshman year.
- Become a member of the Council on Undergraduate Research.
- Ensure student participation in local, regional and national conferences.
- Seek external support for expanded undergraduate research.
- Improve the integration of undergraduate and graduate education.

- **OBJECTIVE 3.4: Maintain the highest standards of ethics and integrity in research and management of the research enterprise**

Key Action Strategies:

- Develop a University-wide code of ethics to govern all research activities.
- Incorporate research integrity training within the Office of Sponsored Programs.
- Provide ethical research training to all faculties, staff and students involved in the research process.