STRENGTHENING OUR CAPACITY TO SERVE

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY'S 2003-2008 STRATEGIC AGENDA



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T NO TIME HAS AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION BEEN MORE IMPORTANT to the future of our communities, our states and our nation. Advanced education is critical to ensuring we have an informed citizenry prepared to live, work and participate in a democratic society. Cutting-edge knowledge, innovation, creativity and critical thinking – all of which are inherent in higher education – drive our capacity to address society's most complex and formidable challenges, challenge that impact the quality of life for our entire region, now and for generations to come. Today's complex, global economy depends upon advanced knowledge and knowledge workers. For our region to be economically competitive, it is essential that we provide for the learning needs of a highly educated workforce.

Therefore, as Northern Kentucky University charts its course for the next ve years, we continue to embrace our responsibility to the intellectual, social, economic, cultural and civic vitality of our region. We recognize the needs of our communities and our unique ability to meet those needs. This strategic plan will guide us as we strengthen our capacity to serve.

In the fall of 1997, Northern Kentucky University embarked on a strategic planning processistable values and Voices. Through more than 30 group conversations involving more than 500 campus and community leaders the University established an institutional vision, a set of core values and six strategic priority areas intended to guide our decision making and action for ve years. As a result of that planning process and the intentional choices that followed, the University is today larger, more diverse, more international, more competitive for the region's best prepared high school graduates, more deeply engaged in our region, better able to attract ar retain talented faculty and staff and better prepared to support the success of our students. On almost ever dimension, the University has moved to an exciting new level of development that is being recognized at the local, state and national levels.

In the fall of 2002, ve years after the rst set of conversations, the University hosted another round of conversations to assess our current performance and guide the development of our future priorities. We held 34 conversations involving more than 550 people from throughout our campus as well as from every corner of our metropolitan region.

What did these conversations tell us?

There is widespread public pride and support for the University. From the 34 conversations, we repeatedly heard strong affrmation of the path the University has followed over the past fve years and for the quality of our academic programs,

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Over the next ve years, we will continue to be guided by the core values that were established ve years ago and af rmed through the most recent set of community and University conversations. These values inform our actions and bind us

that exceed in ation, a strong bene ts package and ample professional development opportunities.

S Hire a more diverse faculty to ensure that our students learn with faculty who re ect a breadth of experiences and perspectives.

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ENRICH THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

At the heart of any university is the quality of interaction between the institution and its students. In order to enhance this interaction, we will:

S Expand opportunities for students to engage in "community-based learning" that enriches their collegiate experience and enhances student employment prospects upon graduation. These

