Toward our Second Century

A Strategic Framework for the Future of Duke

The story of Duke’s first hundred years has been one of tremendous success—of the transformation of a small liberal arts college into a great research university, delivering on the boldly ambitious vision of Duke’s founders and the countless students, faculty, staff, and alumni who have collectively shaped our history.

Today, we have the opportunity to develop a bold vision of our own, to define what Duke’s next hundred years will bring.

As we look ahead together toward our second century, our aspiration is to become nothing less than the leading university of a changing world, to solve the most pressing challenges and advance humankind.

To that end, I invite the cooperation of the entire Duke community. I suggest that we marshal our talents and our resources toward five areas of focus: empowering our extraordinary scholars, transforming teaching and learning, building a renewed campus community, forging purposeful partnerships, and engaging our global network of alumni and parents.

Duke will empower the brightest and boldest thinkers to solve the world’s most pressing challenges. We recognize that the discoveries and advances that will improve lives begin with attracting the very best people. As we look ahead to Duke’s future, it is our human infrastructure that is our true value proposition.

Duke will transform teaching and discovery for the 21st century. We’re going to better fuse our research and educational missions, to create innovative, team-based teaching strategies, to take advantage of new technological opportunities, and to build a robust and responsive learning community that includes everyone.

Duke will build a renewed campus community that promotes growth among our students, faculty, staff, and visitors. This will be a healthier, more vibrant and more inclusive environment for all of us – faculty, students, and staff – who call Duke home.

Duke will forge purposeful partnerships with our neighbors in the region. Through these partnerships, we can advance not just economic development but also community health, housing, and public education, and we will benefit from richer partnerships in the Triangle’s thriving research ecosystem.

Duke will engage a global network of alumni, parents, and friends. We will invest in developing next-generation engagement platforms to create a Duke without walls, extended over space and time, investing continuously in developing ourselves and each other to reach our full potential, to advance humankind.