

INTRODUCTION

VISION, VALUES, MISSION & GOALS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH

December 2001

GOVERNING IDEAS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH

SELECT MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH

In addition to the system and core missions, UW Oshkosh has the following select mission:

Ours is a comprehensive public university with unique ties to both urban and rural environments. We have a tradition of strong programs in the arts and sciences and in select professional career fields. Our faculty and staff are united in believing that the fundamental purpose of a university education is to develop thinking men and women capable of independent growth and adaptation in all roles of life. Accordingly, our select mission as a university is:

- a. To acquire, preserve, and disseminate knowledge.
- b. To provide undergraduate course-work designed to develop learning proficiencies and to cultivate the values and perspectives of educated citizens--in particular, respect for human dignity and cultural diversity, commitment to personal excellence, and the habit of taking thought.
- c. To challenge students to develop their talents, intellectual interests, and creative abilities; to promote an appreciation for both continuity and change; to provide the impetus for a lifelong commitment to, and enthusiasm for, learning; and to prepare persons for critical evaluation and decision making.
- d. To expect scholarly activity, including research, scholarship, and creative endeavor that supports its programs at the associate and baccalaureate degree level, its selected graduate programs, and its special mission.
- e. To provide a broad range of undergraduate degree programs in the arts and sciences, business administration, education, and nursing.
- f. To offer an array of master's and specialist level graduate programs which grow clearly from areas of undergraduate strength and meet the emerging needs of the regions which we serve.
- g. To develop and offer programs and services responding to the needs of the people, institutions, and communities which we serve.

ABRIDGED SELECT MISSION STATEMENT

In sum, the Select Mission of the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh is to serve people by:

- Providing **students** with access to a high-quality, affordable, comprehensive education that enables them to develop their general intellectual capacities, specific interests, and abilities through academic programs and personalized student development services.
- Fostering the scholarly activities of **faculty, students, and staff** related to teaching, research, intellectual activities, creative expression, and service.
- Sharing its intellectual and specialized capabilities with **individuals, organizations, and communities** in our Wisconsin region and beyond in a way that is responsive to the needs of the people we serve.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH VISION: ENGAGING PEOPLE AND IDEAS

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh will be a national model as a responsive, progressive, and **scholarly public service community** known for its accomplished record of **engaging people and ideas for common good**. It will be admired for:

- **Enrichment and Leadership** that emphasizes intellectual, civic, ethical, and personal development for students, faculty, and staff.
- **The Centrality of the Student-Faculty Relationship** that is distinguished by active learning, mutual respect, and collaborative scholarship.
- **Teaching Excellence** that is characterized by diversity, discovery, engagement, innovation, dialogue, and dissemination.
- **Scholarly Achievement** that furthers new knowledge through diverse methods of inquiry and is applicable to multiple audiences.
- **Partnerships** that mutually serve, stimulate, and shape the University and the broader public.

SIX SETS OF CORE VALUES

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh community values:

- **Knowledge and Continuous Learning.** We believe that the pursuit of knowledge, understanding, meaning, and personal development should be encouraged across all stages of life.
- **Diversity and Inclusivity.** We believe that a university community connects the perspectives and backgrounds of diverse social and academic groups of people. To meet this aim, a university community must be inclusive in its composition and support a civil atmosphere and a tolerant environment for learning.
- **Quality and Achievement.** We believe that the university should provide a wide range of high-quality educational and scholarly opportunities that stimulate activity and recognize achievement by students, faculty, and staff.
- **Freedom and Responsibility.** We believe that members of a university community must be free to pursue academic, artistic, and research agendas that are essential to the University Mission, while contributing to an open and collegial environment that promotes reasoned inquiry, intellectual honesty, scholarly competence, and the pursuit of new knowledge.
- **Engagement and Support.** We believe the vitality of ideas is supported by mutually reinforcing relationships that involve students, faculty, staff, administrators, and the broader community. The student-faculty relationship is the most central relationship in the university. This spirit of engagement must also extend beyond the borders of our campus as we seek to stimulate, serve, and shape our society.
- **Social Awareness and Responsiveness.** We believe that educators and students should explore and engage the challenges that confront regional, national, and global communities, using their intellectual and creative capabilities to understand, investigate, and solve problems. Social awareness will allow us to respond to domestic and international needs for equitable and sustainable societies.

FIVE STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1. *Develop a Diverse, Engaged Community of Lifelong Learners and Collaborative Scholars.*

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh will be regionally based and globally connected. We are a community of critical, creative, and constructive thinkers who approach academic and social issues in an informed and principled way. Our learning community is distinguished by a pervasive commitment to diversity and inclusivity, international perspectives, support for those with disabilities or special needs, and engaged community service.

2. *Enhance Teaching Excellence, Active Learning and Dynamic Curricular Programs.*

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh will enhance the scholarly and physical environment we provide for teaching excellence, active learning, and dynamic curricular programs. The university will encourage, support, and intensify efforts to engage students inside and outside of the classroom.

3. *Foster Research, Intellectual Activity, and Creative Expression.*

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh will sustain, support, and enhance a vigorous scholarly environment for research, intellectual activity, and creative expression. We will encourage faculty, students, and staff to generate and maintain connections to professional communities and the people, institutions, and communities we serve. Faculty, staff, and students will seek opportunities to work together to discover, share, and apply knowledge.

4. *Expand Regional Outreach and Domestic and International Partnerships.*

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh will expand and support collaborative relationships that contribute to the development of knowledge and its application in new situations while maintaining its core values. We encourage principled and responsive relationships that draw on the ideas, ambitions, and talents of the university and its external partners.

5. *Promote Representative Leadership, Responsive Shared Governance, and Flexible Resource Stewardship.*

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh will promote accessible, representative, and altruistic leadership, responsive shared governance, and flexible resource stewardship. We will be broad, open, and inclusive in governance processes and will align our human, physical, and financial resources to meet our established priorities.

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University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

FACULTY AND ACADEMIC STAFF HANDBOOK

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