

The Wright Path to 2025 Community Dialogue on Vision, Mission and Values February 12, 2018 Summary

On February 12, 2018 a cross-section of Wright State University faculty, staff, students and community members gathered at 2455 Presidential Drive for a discussion of vision, mission and values to inform the University's new strategic plan. There were approximately 58 attendees. The session was facilitated by the strategic planning chairs Dr. David Bright and Mike Wiehe and attended by Wright State University's President Dr. Cheryl B. Schrader.

The meeting was divided into three main discussion topics, with topics one and two designed to elicit feelings on values and strengths, and topic three for vision of the future.

The attendees were given assigned seating at separate tables to ensure a diverse group at each table. Each person was given a handout on the topics with specific questions to reflect on and answer. Dr. Bright explained the session and had the attendees write down in quiet reflection their thoughts to the questions posed for the topics.

Then each table came together in a group discussion and were asked to explore the values and strengths their answers to the questions represent. Each table was given a marker and large piece of paper to create a list for 2-4 values and a list of strengths. They then reported out to the room. Their thoughts are listed below.

Topics 1 & 2 Values

- Integrity (4)
- Empathy
- Enthusiasm for future
- Community-minded (4)
- Persistence
- Inclusion
- Innovation/Creativity (2)
- Recognizing People
- Learning
- Critical awareness
- Compassion (2)
- Human contact
- Empowerment
- Valued
- Pride (2)
- Challenged
- Experience contributes in many ways
- Team environment (3)
- Supported (2)
- Encouraged
- Opportunity to make difference
- Program improvement
- Professional growth (2)
- Collaboration (5)
- Commitment to students (7)
 - Providing Opportunities for leadership and growth for students
 - Support for students (academic and financial)
 - Seeing transformation in students from beginning to graduation

- Strong connections for students in community internships
- Create student researchers and scholars
- Passion and dedication to WSU mission (2)
- Generational pride to be a raider
- WSU is a family
- Respect (2)
- Adaptability

- Vision
- Life transitions
- Service
- Decisiveness
- Advocacy For Wright State
- Stewardship of the wright state ideal
- Excellence
- “Positive” WSU exposure throughout the region

Strengths

- People- collaboration and connection
- Quality instruction
- Team work
- Open communication
- Strong leadership
- Follow through
- Commitment by faculty and staff (2)
- Connections
- Educational resources
- Strong leadership
- Physical space
- GRIT
- Support from leadership for professional development
- Investment
- Fiscal Resources (4)
 - Government grant
 - Other universities
 - Internal and external sponsorship
- Best practices
- University Expertise
- WSU personnel

- People at WSU- expertise and common goal = students
- Diversity – students attracted through scholarships and research opportunities
- Tuition remission
- Internships/ Employment for students
- Outside community support
- Other colleges and universities
- WPAFB
- Interdepartmental communication
- Trust (2)
- Clear Vision
- Institutional Support for new ideas and initiatives (3)
- People in all areas doing their parts well
- Appreciation of diverse knowledge
- Leveraging our Strengths
- Willingness to go above and beyond
- Recognizing potential- leads to transformation in which we can have pride
- Students

The attendees were also asked to relay stories they experienced that related to the vision and strengths they identified. Some of those stories were:

- Expansion of COLA internship program.
- Being recognized by UD and other researchers, asking how we are doing and so that they can collaborate with us, connecting with community by helping community orgs.
- Helping students step outside of their comfort zone.
- Teamwork- cross disciplinary research in school of medicine.
- Process of seeing student from beginning to end.
- We see students and we give them opportunities to achieve at high levels- filling their heads with things they never thought would be able to achieve, giving them all the tools and providing them with high quality instruction. Employees are connected with one another and their students, and everyone is willing to make personal connections with each other. We're there for the students.

Topic 3

Vision – What is your vision of the future for Wright State?

Each table also reported a vision for the future that they were asked to incorporate the values and strengths they identified as well as a strong sense of pride, transformation, and potential.

- Increased diversity at all levels
- University of First Choice
- Universally designed curriculum
- Recognition of excellence that is Wright State
- Empower Students to be resourceful
- WSU jumps to RI status with discovery
- Retention and grad rates envy of peers
- Smooth entry for students
- Increase number of student support services staff
- WSU educated state legislators about the value of public higher education
- WSU alumni become involved in legislation (federal and state)
- More advances and holistic education
- WSU meets students' needs effectively while doing the above
- WSU provides excellent customer service
- Perseverance
- Moving away from self-serving motivations
- Openness to change
- Identifying our "niche"
- Better align resources with needs
- Attitude of stewardship (not just people... all university resources)
- Education is not a business- no more outside contracts
- Dedication to teaching
- Student retention
- Transparency
- Empowerment of all employees
- Awareness and access to resources (VMC, UCIEE, WGS, Latino affairs etc)
- Openness to new ideas
- Invest in "at-promise" students
- Provide and support experiential learning

- Locally Advertise the Wright State brand to increase enrollment
- Students advocating for students
- Obtain a degree completely online
- Health innovation hub
- Student recreation space
- Early College Initiative
- Establishment of new programs
- Increased Enrollment
- We heard you – community
- World class research facilities open at WSU
- WSU collaborates with _____ to solve world’s problems
- New and innovative partnerships forged with _____ (WPAFB, UD, Miami etc.)
- Collaboration with top companies
- Best place to work- 3 years in a row
- WSU recognized as # 1 State University
- Create a base of common experiences for students, faculty and staff (tradition or ritual)
- Recognizing potential- leads to transformation in which we can have pride
- The strength of the pack is the wolf and the strength of the wolf is he pack (leveraging diversity and unity)
- Career ready
- Debt-free
- Soft skills and well roundedness
- Living laboratories on campus
- Academic plus others- purposeful connections
- Expanded internships, more “real life” experiences
- All employees have equal value
- Geographic expansion online
- WSU grads equipped to industry needs

Closing

Finally, Dr. Bright asked the group their final thoughts. What is one insight or question you have after today?

- Begin every day with list of accomplishments and think how can I be that good?
- We have awesome students that we need to get in front of people more often
- Use ideas and resources of the WSU community
- Hope to see follow up and follow up through- we all want to be better, seeing where we can go, can't wait to see the next steps
- Reverse the words, potential transform pride
- Student retention – collectively we can do a better job of identifying students at risk earlier than probation
- In spite of how divided we have looked, we're not- we all came together with some great ideas and learned a lot about how we can help each other
- Excited to come back to WSU and see faculty and staff see the value and potential in their students, that leads their students to transform and get that pride