Dear members of the Dartmouth community,

The past few months have been a time of great activity for Dartmouth's ongoing strategic planning process. As we begin a new calendar year, we would like to welcome everyone back to campus and share some updates with you about our ongoing efforts.

Five months ago we launched the first strategic planning working group--Pedagogy, Teaching, and Mentorship. Today we have seven active working groups comprising nearly 120 faculty members, students, and staff from across campus: Digital Dartmouth; Global Dartmouth; Graduate Education for the Future; Research, Scholarship, and Creativity; Students of the Future; and Workforce of the Future. To date, these working groups have engaged more than 500 people on campus alone, from nearly every academic department and school at Dartmouth through meetings, focus groups, one-on-one interviews, and online surveys. And these numbers will only continue to grow when we launch the final working groups in the coming months.

One of the guiding principles set by President Jim Yong Kim for the strategic planning process was to look both inward and outward for the most innovative approaches to higher education. For this reason, we initiated the "Leading Voices in Higher Education" strategic planning speaker series, which brings some of the world's most creative and innovative thinkers to campus to share their perspectives on the future of higher education. It began in earnest last fall with a talk by Vijay Govindarajan, the Earl C. Daum 1924 Professor of International Business at Tuck, and makes its campus-wide debut January 26 with a talk by renowned humanities scholar Cathy Davidson. On February 29 education thought leader Ben Wildavsky will visit Dartmouth to share his views on the global nature of higher education. You can learn more about these and future speakers by visiting the strategic planning website (http://strategicplanning.dartmouth.edu).

As expected, the working groups are generating many thought-provoking ideas, and have also been gathering ideas from leading journals and publications. We encourage you to explore our growing collection of materials at the Strategic Planning Library page (http://strategicplanning.dartmouth.edu/inform/strategic-planning-library) and to let us know of other ideas through the website or by contacting us. On the website you also can view the latest stories, interviews, and videos relating to the strategic planning process. The site is updated every couple of weeks with new material. We look forward to hearing from you.

In closing, we want to thank everyone who has given so generously of his or her time to help shape the vision for Dartmouth's academic future. We will continue to keep the Dartmouth community involved as we move ahead in 2012.

Thank you,

Carol Folt, Provost, Chair Strategic Planning Leadership Committee (SPLC) Denise Anthony, Chair Faculty Strategic Planning Advisory Committee (F-SPAC) Maria Laskaris, Co-Chair Senior-Executive Strategic Planning Advisory Committee (SE-SPAC) Martin Wybourne, Co-Chair Senior-Executive Strategic Planning Advisory Committee (SE-SPAC)