

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE
October 18, 2011

Dear members of the Dartmouth Community,

Since the spring of 2010, Dartmouth has been engaged in an ambitious strategic-planning process in anticipation of its 250th anniversary in 2019. One of the foundational principles guiding the process has been to seek input broadly from within and outside Dartmouth, and across the full community. Over the last 18 months, more than 500 people have participated in discussions and working groups. We hope to see that number increase several fold over the remaining 12 months of the process.

To help enhance the generation of ideas and involvement, I am pleased to announce the launch of the strategic-planning website (strategicplanning.dartmouth.edu). This site is designed to serve as home to your thoughts and ambitions for the future of Dartmouth; inform you of the process as it unfolds; and provide a platform for sharing materials relevant to the planning efforts such as emerging trends in higher education and our globally connected world.

A key aspect of the strategic-planning process has been the creation of a set of advisory committees and working groups whose roles are to explore key topics essential to our future. The two advisory groups are the Faculty and Senior Executive Strategic Planning Advisory Committees (F-SPAC and SE-SPAC, respectively). F-SPAC, chaired by Associate Professor of Sociology Denise Anthony, comprises 18 faculty from Arts & Sciences and the professional schools; SE-SPAC, chaired by Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Maria Laskaris and Professor of Physics and Vice Provost Martin Wybourne, comprises 28 faculty and senior administrative leaders. In addition to serving as a source of information, the new website will also provide you with a way to engage and interact with these groups.

Together these leaders and committees have already launched four working groups: Pedagogy, Teaching, and Mentorship; Research, Scholarship, and Creativity; Digital Dartmouth; and Graduate Programs for the Future. Three more working groups will launch soon focusing on Global Dartmouth, Students of the Future, and Workforce of the Future, with several more anticipated for the winter and spring terms.

At this critical time, all of those involved so far have said how exciting it feels to be a part of groups that possess such enthusiasm for coming together, talking about the future, and thinking, challenging, and looking forward as a community. In that spirit, I speak for all involved when I encourage you to explore the content of the strategic-planning website, to use the tools available to help articulate a vision for the future, and to accept our invitations to get involved in other ways over the coming months. The website too will continue to evolve. There are more stories and videos already in the works and we are seeking input for new ones in the future. Tell us what you like, what you don't like, and what you would like to see more of on the site. More importantly, share with us your most creative and forward-thinking ideas. Please join us in the conversation.

Carol Folt
Provost