



## **DARE TO DISCOVER: A VISION FOR A GREAT UNIVERSITY**

*Quaecumque vera—  
Whatsoever things are true*

*“The people demand that knowledge shall not be the concern of scholars alone. The uplifting of the whole people shall be its final goal.” Henry Marshall Tory, September, 1908*

### **VALUES**

To achieve our vision of a great university, we rely on shared, deeply-held values that are a bedrock for our behaviour and guide our actions. These values are drawn from the principles on which the University of Alberta was founded in 1908 and reflect a dynamic, modern institution of higher learning, leading change nationally and internationally.

We value

1. excellence in teaching that promotes learning, outstanding research and creative activity that fuel discovery and advance knowledge, and enlightened service that builds citizenship;
2. the centrality of our students and our responsibility to provide an intellectually superior educational environment;
3. integrity, fairness, and principles of ethical conduct built on the foundation of academic freedom, open inquiry, and the pursuit of truth;
4. a diverse, yet inclusive, dynamic collegial community that welcomes change and seizes opportunity with passion and creativity;
5. pride in our history and traditions, including contributions from Aboriginal people and other groups, that enriches and distinguishes the University.

### **VISION**

To inspire the human spirit through outstanding achievements in learning, discovery, and citizenship in a creative community, building one of the world's great universities for the public good.

### **MISSION**

Within a vibrant and supportive learning environment, the University of Alberta discovers, disseminates, and applies new knowledge through teaching and learning, research and creative activity, community involvement, and partnerships. The University of Alberta gives a national and international voice to innovation in our province, taking a lead role in placing Canada at the global forefront.

## **CORNERSTONES**

We have anchored our vision on four cornerstones that provide the foundation for a great university.

### **TALENTED PEOPLE**

1. Attract outstanding students from Alberta, Canada, and the world.
2. Create a dynamic, discovery-based learning environment by aiming for a mix of undergraduate and graduate students typical of leading public research universities.
3. Attract post-doctoral fellows, researchers, and visiting faculty from around the world to join the academic community already in place.
4. Improve access for rural, Aboriginal, and non-traditional students through partnerships with colleges and by linkages with high schools across the province and improve affordability by enhancing bursaries and scholarships.
5. Recruit and retain outstanding and diverse academic staff through endowed professorships, competitive start-up funding, attractive career support, and by providing a vibrant intellectual climate that celebrates and rewards achievement.
6. Recruit and retain the best staff by fostering a culture of excellence within a healthy and safe workplace, providing progressive career opportunities and rewarding leadership and outstanding accomplishments.
7. Enhance the global perspective and intercultural climate at the University by celebrating and drawing upon the diversity within it.

### **LEARNING, DISCOVERY, AND CITIZENSHIP**

1. Create an exceptional and life-changing university experience for students through curricular and extra-curricular offerings that integrate learning, discovery, and citizenship to develop the intellect and the imagination, educate leaders, and enhance a global perspective.
2. Engage students through mentorship and peer-based activities such as clubs, athletics, and social events to inspire high achievement, improve retention, and enhance graduation rates.
3. Foster scholarship and discoveries that are transformative and at the cutting edge by rewarding quality and impact over quantity and by enhancing cross-disciplinary initiatives.

4. Demonstrate the contribution of university discovery and scholarship to public policy and enhance these social, cultural, and economic dividends by celebrating and rewarding achievements in knowledge translation and dissemination.
5. Foster national and international research collaborations that advance understanding and generate knowledge to address global challenges.
6. Reward and recognize the excellence of individuals in teaching, ground-breaking scholarship, and contributions to community and nation building as public intellectuals and professionals.
7. Inspire students, faculty, and staff alike to engage in activities that develop leadership, foster social and moral responsibility, and contribute to the further development of our society and its institutions.

## **CONNECTING COMMUNITIES**

1. Engage alumni in a mutually beneficial life-long relationship with the University of Alberta, enlisting their support to achieve the University's vision and to assist us in connecting to communities around the world.
2. Build strong partnerships with the capital region, the cities of Edmonton and Camrose, other urban and rural Alberta communities, and all orders of government to fulfill our responsibility as Alberta's university, a leader on the national stage with global connections.
3. Foster partnerships with business and industry to advance mutual goals for supporting talented people through employment and internship opportunities for our students and access to life-long learning, identifying research challenges, and translating and disseminating our research outcomes.
4. Foster excellent relationships with Alberta Health Services and other provincial health organizations, the post-secondary sector, the public sector, and non-governmental organizations to further enhance the quality of life in our society.
5. Enhance relationships with other nations to create learning opportunities for students and research collaborations to address global challenges and initiatives that foster mutual understanding, global peace, and prosperity.
6. Promote community pride and participation in the University through its physical and intellectual openness and opportunities for ongoing dialogue and discussion.
7. Engage with, serve, and draw strength from the diversity of our external communities, in particular Aboriginal, Franco-Albertan, multicultural, rural, and northern communities.

## **TRANSFORMATIVE ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT**

1. Develop an endowment comparable to the best public research universities in the world.
2. Secure resources to provide the best education for our students, to support world-class research and creative activity and its dissemination and translation, and to foster citizenship.
3. Provide needs-based and merit-based financial assistance to increase affordability for all students and offer competitive fellowships to attract outstanding graduate students.
4. Build, enhance, and maintain classrooms, laboratories, libraries, and museums, as well as athletic, social, and residential facilities to provide a transformative university experience.
5. Continue to set priorities and invest in world-class teaching and research infrastructure.
6. Establish high standards of service based on best practices to achieve and maintain good stewardship of financial resources and capital assets.
7. Promote administrative effectiveness and good governance by improving communication among units, enhancing collaboration, implementing transformative ideas, and revising organizational structures.