

Concord University: A Shared Vision for the Future

Summary of Preliminary Presidential Plan

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Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future

Concord University is a place where students discover their potential, where faculty and staff make a lasting impact, and where alumni proudly carry forward a tradition of excellence in their careers and communities. Higher education is evolving rapidly, and Concord has a unique opportunity to build on its strengths while preparing students for a changing world.

This is a pivotal moment. Strengthening enrollment, ensuring financial sustainability, and enhancing the student experience will require strategic action, innovative thinking, and shared commitment. My first priority will be to listen, learn, and collaborate—working alongside faculty, staff, students, alumni, the Board of Governors, and regional partners to define and implement a bold and unifying vision.

As a leader, my greatest hope is to inspire a shared belief that, together, we can accomplish extraordinary things. The challenges facing higher education are real—but through collaboration, innovation, and a deep commitment to student success, Concord’s future can be even brighter than its proud past. It would be a privilege to serve this remarkable community as we build the next 150 years of Concord’s legacy.

Vision (in Development)

Concord is poised to become the premier, first-choice regional university—where affordability, high-impact experiential learning, a welcoming campus culture, and meaningful academic and career pathways come together to create transformative student success. *Our graduates go on to lead with purpose, spark innovation, and shape the future of Appalachia and beyond.*

Transformational Pillars for Concord’s Future

Transformational Pillar #1 – Flagship Experiential Learning

- Imagine a Concord that’s nationally recognized as the region’s flagship university for experiential learning—spanning the arts and humanities, health and life sciences, technology, and professional fields.

Transformational Pillar #2 – A Campus and Student Experience that Inspires and Retains

- A Concord that’s known for fostering a campus environment that builds confidence, connection, and a strong sense of belonging.

Transformational Pillar #3 – Regional Impact & Economic Transformation

- A Concord that is a visible, trusted partner in shaping the region’s future.
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Strategic Priorities for Concord’s Future (Sample of Preliminary Ideas)

I. Strategic Growth: Enrollment, Retention, and Financial Sustainability

- Launch a Presidential Enrollment and Retention Summit to strengthen recruitment and retention.
- Expand enrollment pipelines through partnerships with high schools, community colleges, and regional employers.
- Innovate in graduate and online education, developing stackable credentials in high-demand fields such as healthcare, substance use studies, cybersecurity, data analytics, business, education, and interdisciplinary studies in the arts and humanities.
- Establish corporate education partnerships providing tuition assistance and workforce-aligned training programs.

- Implement early intervention strategies, including attendance tracking, proactive advising, and predictive analytics to support student success.
- Establish Living-Learning Communities in areas such as Education, Health Sciences, Business, Outdoor and Environmental Studies, First-Generation College Success, and the Arts & Humanities (e.g., Appalachian Culture or Creative Expression).
- Strengthen transfer pathways through expanded articulation agreements and reverse transfer programs.

II. Enhancing the Concord Experience: Toward Excellence & Engagement

- Expand experiential learning through internships, research, and service-learning opportunities.
- Strengthen the first-year experience by integrating career exploration and mentorship.
- Revitalize student-centered spaces and reduce deferred maintenance by securing funding for improved facilities.
- Increase engagement through leadership development, participation in the arts and humanities, athletics, and student organizations.
- Host Student Listening Sessions to ensure student voices shape Concord's future.
- Expand student wellness initiatives, making mental health and well-being central to success.

III. Strengthening Strategic Partnerships & Regional Economic Impact

- Forge employer partnerships to increase internships, apprenticeships, and graduate pipelines.
- Expand Concord's leadership in healthcare workforce development and regional capacity building.
- Leverage state and federal funding to strengthen programs and modernize infrastructure.
- Establish an Industry Advisory Council to align programs with job market needs.
- Grow tuition-assistance partnerships with employers encouraging degree completion.
- Provide opportunities for every student to participate in an internship, research project, creative expression, or service-learning experience.
- Strengthen alumni engagement through mentorship programs, storytelling initiatives, and networking events.

IV. Leadership Approach: Growth, Engagement, & Innovation

A strong university leader is not just a manager but a collaborator, problem solver, and storyteller. I strive to bring people together around shared purpose, to listen and learn, and to identify challenges while pursuing practical, data-informed solutions.

As president, I will:

- Actively and transparently collaborate with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the Board of Governors to ensure shared governance and alignment.
- Embrace an entrepreneurial, solutions-driven mindset—ensuring decisions are data-informed, student-centered, and sustainable.
- Position Concord as a leader in student success, workforce development, and institutional agility.

A Shared Commitment to Success

Concord University's tagline—*Come to Learn. Go to Serve.*—reflects the heart of our mission and the great work already being done by the Concord team. As we look to the future, we must embrace innovation while staying true to our core values of academic excellence, student success, and community engagement. This plan aligns with Concord's strategic vision, *Next Steps on the Way Forward 2026*, ensuring we build upon existing strengths while fostering new opportunities for growth.

I am excited about the possibilities ahead and look forward to working with each of you to ensure that Concord continues to thrive for generations to come. Together, we can accomplish anything.