

# Environmental Scan: Opportunities Themes

## **Leveraging Technology to enhance :**

- classroom learning
- access beyond the traditional classroom
- job training and skill development
- *“Finding the “perfect blend” of in-person, residential education with some on-line elements can create a unique niche for UMBC to pursue.”* staff quote

# Environmental Scan: Opportunities Themes

## **Expanding Interdisciplinary Research**

- translational research for the benefit of society.
- *“forge links between humanist fields and STEM fields through campus interdisciplinary activities to support innovation.”*
- *“The complexity of real problems positions universities well to create teams that cross disciplines and address the messy, ill-structured problems we are facing. We need to do the problem posing.”*

# Environmental Scan: Opportunities Themes

## Capitalizing on our Identity

- fostering social entrepreneurial practice
- knowing what our strengths are
- knowing what we are not
- maintaining our core values
- *“The funding challenge has afforded us the opportunity to look into the mirror and see our weakness. UMBC has stepped up to address those challenges with innovative solutions in education, fiscal responsibility, social awareness, and entrepreneurial vigor.” faculty quote*

# Environmental Scan: Opportunities Themes

## **Improving Access to Education**

- Untapped talented underrepresented populations; globally and locally
- *“Demonstration of the positive and creative effects of interdisciplinary problem solving on the greater good is a good strategy. Moving this concept out into the public sphere, so that the concept of a university, rather than a “trade school” is seen to be beneficial for the country.”*

# Environmental Scan: Opportunities Themes

## **Strengthening Workforce Development**

- Meeting the expectations of employers
- foster civic agency – social issues will provide opportunities for presenting solutions in collaboration with surrounding communities.
- - Blossoming of efforts to improve K-12  
Increase in necessity of college level skills to economic security & advancement.

# Environmental Scan: Opportunities Themes

## **Strengthening Workforce Development (cond.)**

*- “Increasing graduation rates will have a long term positive affect on providing opportunities for alumni to get into the workforce, innovate new ideas and research, and in return, give back to their educational institutions.” staff quote*

# Environmental Scan: Opportunities Themes

## **Partnerships, Collaborations and Relationships**

- internal / external
- public / private sector relationships
- International
- non-profits, service and alum

# Environmental Scan: Opportunities Themes

## **Engaging Diversity**

- opportunity to recognize and harness the power diversity
- bringing different perspectives for learning and problem solving



# Environmental Scan: Opportunities Themes

## **Engaging Diversity (cond.)**

- “Two trends that will create opportunities for public research universities are an increased focus in global education and interdisciplinary research. Not only can we get talented students from across the globe in U.S. universities, having this close connection to another culture encourages us to expand our research to consider new things.” *student quote*

# UMBC Values

1. Community (40)
2. Support (28)
3. Work (29)
4. Collaboration (22)
5. Respect (16)
6. Success (12)
7. Trust (12)
8. Innovation (12)
9. Learning (12)
10. Diversity (11)
11. Culture (11)
12. Ideas (10)

Comments about our values frequently mentioned the words “students,” “staff,” “faculty,” and “people,” indicating the priority our community places on all of its members.



## Why do these values matter? They enable us to do important work.

- We are agents of change making a difference. Everyone's voice counts and people listen to each other.
- Together we can bring tough issues to life and take on challenges. We value multiple perspectives. We are willing to re-think.
- Our interdependence holds us accountable to each other for doing good work.

## Vision: UMBC 2026

- Larger State-out-the-Art Infrastructure
  - More residential housing
  - Greater research, teaching, and learning capacity
- Greater/Diversified Funding Streams
- Larger Student Body & Graduating Class
  - More PhD programs
  - The retention rates for all groups of students equal those of scholarship recipients
- Stronger Community Connections
  - Both physically and intellectually/programmatically

## Vision: Drivers

- Money:  
Endowment, Fund raising, More research money,  
Increase in state funding.
- Scrappy, adaptive, creative  
“We’re Feisty”
- Commitment:  
to UMBC, to excellence,  
to environment and sustainability;  
Manifested by alumni support  
Innovative Faculty and Staff dedicated  
to teaching and research

## Vision: Drivers

- Expansion of athletics

“UMBC has become more exciting through community engagement, sports team recognition, and cultural events on campus.”

- Name recognition
- Technology and efficiency
- Broader engagement and collaborations: internal and external

## Vision: Values

- collaboration
- student engagement
- innovation
- community partnerships
- excellence
- human resource
- human resource
- student success
- diversity
- civic agency
- high quality teaching and research
- transparency



# Focus Area Selection Criteria

We should select topics that:

1. Have a tangible/measurable impact
2. Cultivate UMBC's distinctive identity and reputation
3. Are sustainable in the long-term
4. Help achieve the UMBC mission
5. Build on current strengths or strengthen weaknesses
6. Address USM, state, national and global goals and challenges
7. Realistically take into account existing and potential resources
8. Consider who students will be in the future and how they will relate to UMBC (e.g., through future technologies)
9. Have the potential to be transformative
10. Are not limited by preconceptions about university structures and practices
11. Complement each other

# Additional Focus Area Themes

- Civic Agency
- Community Partnership
- Social and Economic Entrepreneurship
- Enhance Substantive Co-curricular activities
- Alumni Investment
- Internationalize- through smart faculty & staff hires, student recruitment, course offerings
- Faculty & Staff succession planning for institutional stability & growth