

## Strategic Plan Summary

July 18, 2017

### Mission Statement

Western Connecticut State University changes lives by providing all students with a high quality education that fosters their growth as individuals, scholars, professionals, and leaders in a global society.

To achieve this, we

1. Offer undergraduate and graduate programs that weave together liberal arts and professional education and instill a desire for life-long learning.
2. Sustain a vibrant, inclusive campus that connects individuals through co-curricular programs, cultural events, and service to the community.
3. Attract student-centered faculty who are passionate teachers and accomplished scholars.
4. Establish partnerships that create opportunities for internships, research, and experiential learning.

(Approved by the University Senate on March 11, 2015; by the University President on March 24, 2015; by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents on June 2, 2017; and by the Board of Regents on June 15, 2017)

### Values Statement

**Excellence.** We value outstanding achievement realized through persistence, effort, honest feedback, and self-reflection.

**Curiosity.** We value the questions that drive learning, innovation, and creativity, which serve as the beginning and the desired outcome of education.

**Dialogue.** We value the conversations that explore diverse perspectives and encourage shared understanding.

**Engagement.** We value the interactions with ideas, peers, and community that are essential to a vibrant university environment.

**Opportunity.** We value the possibilities created by affordable, accessible educational environments in which students can grow into independent thinkers and confident leaders.

**Respect.** We value the right of all people to be treated with dignity and fairness and expect this in our policies, classrooms, and community.

(Approved by the University Senate on May 6, 2015 and by the University President on May 7, 2015)

### Vision Statement

Western Connecticut State University will be widely recognized as a premier public university with outstanding teachers and scholars who prepare students to contribute to the world in a meaningful way.

(Approved by the University Senate on January 18, 2017; by the University President on January 19, 2017; by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents on June 2, 2017; and by the Board of Regents on June 15, 2017)

GOALS		Goal One: Create, strengthen, and enhance programs and curricula that are responsive to the needs of a diverse community of learners.	Goal Two: Develop and implement processes, facilities, and support services to meet the needs of a diverse campus community.	Goal Three: Create a sense of campus community and pride.	Goal Four: Create a distinct identity.	Goal Five: Create a self-sustaining financial model.
STRATEGIES	ONE	Develop support services that address both cognitive and non-cognitive areas for all students, including first-generation and/or under-prepared students.	Develop administrative and support processes that are effective and efficient and available at times and in places that students are likely to access them.	Strengthen online and on ground student engagement.	Celebrate and promote the importance of faculty scholarly activities as part of the WCSU brand.	Create a plan to evaluate academic, support, outreach, and administrative programs.
	TWO	Develop academic programs and supports for adult learners to expand our recruiting options and better serve the regional needs for continuing and advanced education.	Advance advising practices that are student-centered and specific to the needs of a diverse student population.	Create a vibrant co-curricular environment with events and activities that are attractive to the varied disciplines and goals of our student population and surrounding community.	Examine the viability and purpose of designating individual programs as Signature Programs.	Create greater efficiencies and affinities in Institutional Advancement.
	THREE	Develop student-centered scheduling practices to insure timely degree completion and an efficient use of resources.	Support career development from admission to post-graduate placements.	Improve opportunities for engagement among faculty and staff.	Develop the Western brand and publicize through sustained marketing efforts.	Redesign the functions of Alumni Relations to have alumni interacting with current students and working to enhance the mission of the university.
	FOUR	Increase participation in international exchange programs to support both WCSU's commitment to intercultural competence and a widely recognized high-impact practice.	Develop a student-centered plan for facilities and food service that meets the needs of a diverse community of learners.	Strengthen sense of community via multi-platform communications.		Align the efforts of the University Planning and Budget Committee (UPBC) with the plan to evaluate programs.
	FIVE	Support applied learning opportunities including research, innovation, performance, and service to support connections between curriculum, community, and careers.	Support faculty scholarly activity by strengthening and streamlining access to university-based resources and providing administrative assistance to apply for and manage external grants.	Increase/strengthen pride.		

(Approved by the University Senate on December 14, 2016 and by the University President on January 3, 2017)