

# THE COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE STRATEGIC PLAN

The strategic plan for the College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS) was developed in 2000 and revised in 2005, 2010 and 2015 in conjunction with the strategic planning processes of the university and the Office of Academic and Student Affairs. Thus the CPACS plan was built on the following three UNO goals:

UNO Goal 1: UNO will be recognized as a student-centered metropolitan university.  
(Revised October 2012)

UNO Goal 2: UNO will be recognized for its academic excellence as a leading metropolitan university.

UNO Goal 3: UNO will be recognized for its outstanding engagement with the urban, regional, national, and global communities.

## Mission

***Empowering Future Leaders, Fostering Inclusive Communities, Creating Innovative Solutions***

The mission of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service is:

1. To foster a learning environment where undergraduate students, graduate students, and adult learners can gain a comprehensive quality education helpful in preparing for careers in their respective fields.
2. To conduct research, both applied and basic, especially as it relates to concerns of our local and statewide constituencies.
3. To offer professional services to the community, including educational opportunities, designed to further personal, professional, organizational, and community improvement goals.

## Vision

To be the best College of Public Affairs and Community Service and nationally recognized for inspirational teaching, innovative research and transformative service which strives to create an equitable and just society.

## **CPACS GOALS**

**CPACS Goal 1: Prepare and educate students for service to the public in their personal and professional lives.**

**CPACS Goal 2: Provide an inclusive and diverse environment to recruit, nurture, and graduate students committed to public service.**

**CPACS Goal 3: Promote the scholarship of engagement by actively collaborating with communities at all levels through teaching, research and service activities of faculty, staff and students.**

**CPACS Goal 4: Utilize the most effective teaching/learning pedagogies possible to assist student learning.**

**CPACS Goal 5: Produce high quality faculty research and scholarly activity especially as it relates to the metropolitan mission of the University of Nebraska at Omaha.**



## CPACS STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

**CPACS Goal 1: Prepare and educate students for service to the public in their personal and professional lives.**

**Objective 1.1: The College units will have transparent and clear processes related to student academic and personal services.**

1. Ensure curricula in the major or area of concentration that are relevant and pertinent to the student's educational objectives including how to use technology.
2. Establish partnerships on and off campus that foster service learning and engagement to strengthen students' awareness of diverse issues that impact communities.
3. Establish meaningful internships that prepare students for employment related activities after graduation.
4. Design pedagogical strategies to address the needs of evolving student populations.

**CPACS Goal 2: Provide an inclusive and diverse environment in order to recruit, nurture, and graduate students committed to public service.**

**Objective 2.1: Ensure that students are provided the most appropriate skills and competencies in their discipline-based courses.**

1. Promote and sponsor activities in the college which support a diverse and inclusive environment.
2. Prepare students to become global citizens through international educational engagement.
3. Include diversity and inclusiveness as main topics in core courses in curriculum.

**CPACS Goal 3: Promote the scholarship of engagement by actively collaborating with communities at all levels through teaching, research and service activities of the faculty, staff and students.**

**Objective 3.1: Offer courses, programs and services that enhance connectivity between and among faculty, support staff, students, alumni, and practitioners.**

1. Support student academic success and completion through advisement, student development opportunities and support services, adequate financial aid and scholarship support, especially for excelling low-income students.
2. Review courses offered in the curriculum to judge the extent to which student connectivity is enhanced.
3. Provide support toward faculty scholarship through grant activity such as the CPACS Urban Research Grant.
4. Provide support to all staff for professional development activities that strengthen the CPACS mission, vision and goals.
5. Support the Special Faculty Development Program as one mechanism to improve connectivity with all students, especially related to inclusion and diversity.
6. Monitor and assess college-wide web sites for their effectiveness in communication with students (potential, current and alumni).

**CPACS Goal 4: Utilize the most effective teaching/learning pedagogies possible to assist student learning.**

**Objective 4.1: Apply active learning principles to meet needs of specific student populations**

1. Ensure that on-line education, where appropriate meets the state-wide mission and serves both traditional and non-traditional students as well as unique constituencies.
2. Develop relationships with academic units on the various University of Nebraska campuses to strengthen and combine resources.
3. Develop new organizational structures to better integrate instruction, research, and outreach efforts between the units and within the college.

**CPACS Goal 5: Produce high quality faculty research and scholarly activity especially as it relates to the metropolitan mission of the University of Nebraska at Omaha.**

**Objective 5.1: Develop and implement plans and mechanisms to aid tenure track and tenured faculty in their research agenda.**

1. Utilize resources for additional assigned time for research, travel support, graduate student support, summer research funding, and mentoring teams.
2. Develop additional centers, institutes, and similar structures to support external basic and applied research which are relevant to the community and state in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
3. Identify and collaborate with community leaders, funders, and other community stakeholders to address crucial social issues by providing research support.
4. Identify professional associations that will help faculty advance research and scholarly activity in their respective fields.
5. Encourage leadership in units to host professional journals, newsletters, and related committee activities to insure national connectivity.
6. Employ strong instructional units and service roles across the state, region and nation by CPACS.
7. Seek continued support for current, externally funded outreach efforts that have proven to be effective in individual units as well as projects conducted through the College.
8. Assist state legislature to plan and develop responsive legislation to meet the needs of the State utilizing the expertise of CPACS faculty and staff.



**Our House is built through our collective efforts!**