The University of Illinois at Springfield has a strong heritage. The campus opened its doors in 1970 with a mandate to be a “truly pioneering segment of public education.” In the 43 years since our founding, we have provided undergraduate and graduate degrees for over 33,000 alums, many of whom have made enduring contributions to their communities and their professions. Today, UIS continues to advance toward its vision to be a premier university campus of the University of Illinois with a deep commitment to liberal learning, exceptional public affairs opportunities and outstanding professional programs that serve the Central Illinois region and beyond.

We’re proud of the significant progress UIS has made since 2006, when the campus completed its first strategic planning process as the Springfield campus of the University of Illinois. This 2013-16 Strategic Planning Update reaffirms our collective confidence in the foundations and directions established in that plan, at the same time that it confirms essential strategic priorities for the next three years.

Despite the many challenges facing public higher education in Illinois today, the UIS campus is well positioned for continued advancement. We intend to build on our strengths, take advantage of opportunities and remain focused on our priorities. Nothing less would be expected of a campus of the world-class University of Illinois.

Susan J. Koch, Chancellor
Lynn Pardie, Provost
Strong Foundations

The Springfield campus of the University of Illinois is a young university – only 43 years old in 2013. Its relatively brief history is marked by two defining moments.

The first was its institutional founding as Sangamon State University in 1970, grounded in a commitment to innovation and to engagement with public affairs.

The second was its transition in 1995 to being one of three distinctive campuses of the University of Illinois – the University of Illinois at Springfield.
The 2006 Strategic Plan

In 2006, UIS formally completed its first comprehensive strategic plan as the Springfield campus of the University of Illinois. The strategic planning process engaged faculty, students and staff in an intensive, rigorous, and data-driven competitive analysis and bold visioning exercise. The process generated clear mission and vision statements and outlined action steps that would enable UIS to make significant progress in six strategic areas.

The mission of the University of Illinois at Springfield is to provide an intellectually rich, collaborative, and intimate learning environment for students, faculty, and staff, while serving local, state, regional, national, and international communities.

Our vision is to be a premier public university offering innovative, high-quality liberal arts education, public affairs activities, and professional programs dedicated to academic excellence, to enriching individual lives, and to making a difference in the world.

Strategic Goals:
- Achieving academic excellence
- Enriching individual lives
- Making a difference in the world
- Improving enrollment and retention
- Strengthening campus culture
- Increasing resources and enhancing infrastructure
Actions taken in accord with the 2006 Strategic Plan have advanced the University of Illinois at Springfield significantly. Despite economic and competitive challenges, UIS has maintained focus and our accomplishments are a testament to the dedication of talented faculty and staff who remain committed to students and to the mission, vision and goals of the university.
Since arriving at the Springfield campus in 2011, Chancellor Susan Koch has engaged in a series of listening events, dialogues, forums and discussions with faculty, staff, students, alums and other constituents to identify UIS’s strengths, challenges, goals, opportunities and priority areas.

What emerged from those conversations is a sense of confidence in the ongoing validity of the foundations and directions established in the 2006 Strategic Plan as well as a consensus around three strategic priorities:

1. Growth
2. Talent acquisition and retention
3. Facilities
Growth

UIS intends to grow to approximately **6,000 on-campus students** and to build its highly successful **online programs**. While maintaining the **teaching-focus** that is a core attribute of the UIS experience, we are implementing numerous action steps to support this strategic priority, including:

- Strategic recruiting of a qualified and diverse student body at both undergraduate and graduate levels,
- Enhancing the visibility of the campus and of its regionally and nationally competitive undergraduate and graduate programs,
- Deploying financial aid strategically,
- Implementing new academic programs in high-demand areas,
- Implementing best practices to strengthen student retention, and
- Increasing financial support from alumni and friends of the university.
Achieving the vision to be a premier public university is dependent, more than any other factor, on recruiting a **highly qualified, talented and diverse faculty, staff, and leadership team** and on creating an environment that will retain them and foster their success. The following actions steps are being implemented to support this strategic priority:

- Enhancing salary competitiveness,
- Recruiting high-quality faculty,
- Strategic recruiting of faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds,
- Providing support for faculty teaching and scholarship,
- Streamlining administrative processes, and
- Fostering a supportive campus culture.
Facilities

As UIS continues its growth in numbers of *residential and international students* as well as *commuter students*, we must provide the facilities needed to support a *comprehensive student learning and living experience* – facilities that reflect the reputation and standards of the University of Illinois. Action steps under way to support this priority include:

- Designing and building the university’s first Student Union,
- Renovating the Brookens Library building, which includes the Library as well as classroom and faculty office space,
- Completing design and construction of the Public Safety Building,
- Assessing the adequacy of the sciences education and research facilities in the context of present and future needs, and
- Initiating planning for the next academic building on the Master Plan.
Site of Future UIS Student Union
Summary

This strategic planning update for 2013-16 affirms the validity of the foundations and directions established in the 2006 Strategic Plan as well as a consensus around our strategic priorities. We have defined a future for the University of Illinois at Springfield that is true to our roots and that is commensurate with University of Illinois standards of excellence. It is a future that reflects the core values of the University as well as the innovation mandate that energized the founders and first faculty of our campus.

Building on the contributions of many dedicated faculty and staff and exercising careful stewardship of our resources, we intend to make additional substantive progress during the next three years toward achieving our vision of UIS as a premier public university. We move forward collaboratively and strategically, with momentum focused on the priorities of growth, talent acquisition and retention, and facilities.
UIS is known for Leadership lived; a reputation that honors both its past and its present – acknowledging the spirit of innovation and the commitment to public affairs that has characterized UIS since its founding. Leadership lived reflects the location of the Springfield campus – in the state capital of Illinois and the home of Abraham Lincoln.

Our reputation is grounded in a distinctive combination of four core attributes:

- A teaching-focused academic experience,
- An abundance of opportunities for faculty, students and staff to collaborate in the service of educational goals,
- A right-sized and supportive community,
- A tradition of educating public servants and leaders.
“Our primary commitment is to teaching, to education in public affairs, and to the creation of an environment in which professional and vocational objectives may be pursued in a manner consistent with liberal learning. In its commitment to teaching, in its curriculum, and in its relations with the community, the university is concerned not only with the pursuit of knowledge, that scholarly truth and wisdom may be served, but also with the nature of the quest and the processes of study and inquiry which serve this end.”

Robert C. Spencer, Founding President
Sangamon State University, 1970