EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CREATING A BRILLIANT FUTURE

JANUARY 6, 2006

www.uis.edu/strategicplan
This is the first comprehensive strategic plan for the University of Illinois at Springfield since 1992, when we were still known as Sangamon State University. We have been part of the University of Illinois for 10 years, and it is time for fresh planning, new thinking, and “Stretch Ideas” to move us well beyond what we have been and to lead us well into this century.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION STATEMENT

UIS will be a premier small 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.

STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC INTENT

UIS will be recognized as one of the top five small public liberal arts universities in the United States.

We will achieve this by creating a world-class liberal arts oriented undergraduate educational experience reflecting many of the characteristics and best practices of small private liberal arts colleges, while building on our many strengths. Among those strengths are professional academic programs, graduate education, and public affairs activities.
The competitive analysis with other public and private colleges and universities indicates that UIS has some of the most prized attributes of private colleges – small class sizes, high-quality programs, most courses taught by faculty with terminal degrees, personalized interaction between faculty and students, and hands-on, experiential learning. Our students say, “My professors know me.” Classes and faculty are accessible when students want them – daytime, evenings, and online. As a high-quality small public university, UIS is far more affordable than the private institutions. Moreover, no other university or college has the advantage of being located in the vibrant Illinois state capital. In short, we compare favorably in terms of quality, personal attention, affordability, and location.

This strategic plan is a historic, important document for the University of Illinois at Springfield. We need this plan. I heartily endorse it and urge our many campus audiences – students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the central Illinois and global communities that we serve – to recognize where UIS is going.

We aspire to prepare students to be lifelong learners who are engaged in their communities. We aspire to become recognized as one of the top five small public liberal arts universities in the United States. That is a bold and exciting statement about the future of UIS.

This plan shows us the way. Understanding and pursuing the six goals in this plan now becomes the task of every UIS faculty and staff member. This plan is not extra work for UIS. It is our work.

I offer my sincere compliments and deepest gratitude to the Strategic Planning Committee, especially its chair, Dr. Don O’Neal, associate professor of management. This group worked diligently, wrestled with language, and crafted a vision, mission, and plan of action that will carry us forward with great energy for the next five to ten years.

– Richard D. Ringeisen
Academic Excellence

UIS will achieve academic excellence through excellence in teaching and learning and excellence in scholarship.

At UIS, teaching remains the central function and student learning is our overriding goal. UIS will create an environment that promotes engaged, active, and interdisciplinary learning with the ultimate goal of preparing students to be thinkers and leaders in the world. UIS affirms its commitment to high standards of scholarly excellence. Believing that active scholarship is essential to excellent teaching, UIS is committed to developing a faculty of teacher-scholars, students who collaborate with faculty on research and service projects, and staff who are engaged in advancing the professional practice in their fields. UIS is in the process of enhancing its undergraduate curriculum while maintaining an emphasis on providing excellent graduate programs. It is unique by reaching out aggressively to new, younger undergraduate students even as it continues to reach out to non-traditional students with on-campus and an increasing number of online programs.

Selected initiatives: Expansion of support for faculty and student scholarship; Experiential and Service Learning Institute; focus on lifelong learning and engagement in general curriculum; establishment of high-visibility collaborative projects such as the Emiquon Field Station.
ENRICHING INDIVIDUAL LIVES

The University of Illinois at Springfield seeks to establish an atmosphere that contributes to the intellectual, cultural, social, and personal enrichment of all its participants.

This document offers many ways to provide an intellectually rich and culturally diverse campus environment, including expansion of arts facilities and programs. All will be exposed to a campus community that is infused with an appreciation of diverse cultural perspectives.

The campus environment will be an inclusive and safe place for different perspectives to be explored.

Selected initiatives: Annual Campus Dialogue; development of comprehensive master plan for the arts, including a new bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts; more bridges to the community with civic engagement and volunteer and service learning opportunities; enhancement of intercollegiate athletics.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

With its location in the state capital, UIS has always had a special emphasis on public affairs, citizen engagement, and effecting societal change. This goal echoes and updates those traditions through the theme of Making a Difference in the World. This theme is conceptualized as a series of activities related to reflection, dialogue, and action on public policy and civic culture, resulting in engagement with the world outside the university.

The focus includes local, state, national, and global concerns. All undergraduates will participate in engagement activities; graduate students will continue to have numerous opportunities for hands-on learning and research. The campus will continue to build on its solid record of accomplishment in public affairs, applied research, and training activities – paying special attention to public policy and the civic culture.

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Faculty, staff, students, and alumni from every part of UIS engage in activities that make a difference in the world. Each individual and discipline provides a unique contribution: education, business, professional programs, natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. In other words, Making a Difference in the World is a shared responsibility.

**Selected initiatives:** Engaged Citizenship Common Experience (ECCE) as part of the general education curriculum; entrepreneurial activities in the College of Business and Management; faculty involvement in policy development in Illinois; Illinois Democracy Project; international collaborations; more bridges to the nonprofit sector in central Illinois.

**STRENGTHEN CAMPUS CULTURE**

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ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION

By improving access and opportunity, the University of Illinois at Springfield will enroll, retain, and graduate a larger and more diverse student body engaged in classroom and technology-enhanced education. UIS plans to grow to 6,000 on-campus students and will always be a “small university” in the best sense of the word.

Selected initiatives: A one-stop enrollment services model that includes the entire array of student enrollment services; assertive programs to help students make the transition from high school or community college to the university; Center for First-Year Programs.

RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

UIS has lofty goals and an inspiring vision. Many of the action steps to pursue our vision require the allocation of new resources and the reallocation of current resources – financial, human, and physical. UIS will make bold decisions and will find the resources to implement the goals in this strategic plan. This plan not only allows us to focus more specifically on what UIS wants to become but also gives us a framework within which to allocate and reallocate resources.

RESOURCE NEEDS

This plan identifies many specific needs, including physical enhancements: more internal and external gathering spaces (sometimes called “third spaces”), a Student Center, another residence hall, more laboratory facilities, and a renovation of Brookens Library and the metal buildings. The plan also highlights the need to find more extracurricular opportunities for students, to create a comprehensive plan for cultural and arts activities, and to address salary equity.
This plan sets UIS in pursuit of a bold vision: to become one of the top five small public liberal arts universities in the U.S. It has exciting implications for students, faculty, staff, and the community we serve. Students will benefit from the personalized attention, small classes, and high-quality programs. Faculty will benefit from the unique emphasis that UIS places on teaching and expanding opportunities for scholarship and service. UIS, the high-quality liberal arts university in Springfield, will offer high-quality professional and public affairs programs. And the local community, the nation, and indeed the world will be visibly and recognizably enhanced by the expertise and outreach of the UIS community.

SUMMARY

issues and salary competitiveness for staff and faculty. We estimate needs of $4.351 million in annually recurring funds and $95,000 in onetime, non-recurring funds over the next five years to implement our goals. We have also identified a need for $89 million in capital funds for some of the initiatives in this strategic plan and for buildings identified in the campus master plan of 2000.