WHO ARE WE?

OUR CORE VALUES: At Concordia the following five core values, values currently in action, inform and delineate our decisions and choices:

- Christian
- Teaching and Learning
- Excellence
- Community
- Service

CONCORDIA’S MISSION STATEMENT: Concordia is a Christian University preparing leaders for the transformation of society.

CONCORDIA’S MISSION ATTRIBUTES: In the execution of its mission as informed by its core values, and its historic, active and ongoing relationship and partnership with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Concordia University’s mission will be made real in the following core themes:

CORE THEMES: These desired institutional attributes individually manifest essential elements of Concordia University’s mission and collectively they encompass that mission in its entirety.

- Lutheran. Concordia engages diverse perspectives in an environment of open discourse and academic freedom while bringing a distinctive voice and lens, rooted in the Christian faith, Lutheran understanding and heritage, and liberal arts tradition.

- Rigorous. Concordia’s programs prepare students for meaningful vocations through intellectually challenging academic engagement, research and global preparedness.

- Servant Leaders. Concordia creates an environment in which individuals are transformed, becoming servant-leaders who are agents of positive change, through ethical, humble and rigorous leadership, with and for their communities and around the world.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

In 2024, all students of Concordia University-Portland will be actively engaged in a university that enjoys a strong national reputation in select programs preparing leaders for the transformation of society through educational experiences grounded in relationships and centered in servant leadership, rigor, and Lutheran identity and values.

Concordia University will attract students from around the world who possess the desire and potential to make a significant positive impact with the communities in which they serve. They will enjoy peer and educational relationships in vibrant, Christ-centered learning environments. All Concordia students will be supported by caring faculty, staff and strategic partners as they develop the skills, knowledge, values and experiences that will serve them in their mission to transform society. Concordia will be diverse, adaptive and sustainable, and will continue to grow and thrive.

Capitalizing on Concordia’s core themes of Lutheran, Rigor, and Servant Leadership, students at Concordia in 2024 will be prepared to become change-agents in their communities. Their experience will take place in values-infused, relationally intensive, and highly credible learning communities.

In 2024, Concordia University will serve a diverse global community of students. The education that they receive will be connected to a strong, century-long history and tradition of service and teaching excellence radiating from Concordia’s vibrant campuses in the Pacific Northwest.

Concordia University students will embrace Concordia’s mission and bring the commitment and potential to succeed in their endeavors and achieve their goals. Concordia will provide a highly relational learning environment and an array of services designed to support all students in achieving their personal, academic and professional goals – preparing them for life after graduation; lives in which they serve as transformative leaders.

Students will be served by a cadre of passionate, highly qualified faculty and staff who exhibit excellence in teaching and learning techniques and whose lives are consistent with the university’s core themes. Concordia will provide a supportive environment and the necessary services and care to engage, develop, nurture, and assist them.
Concordia will develop and maintain strategic, mission-fulfilling partnerships that simultaneously aid the university, students, partners and the community in advancing their goals. Selected partners will share values with Concordia in relevant areas and will help advance its mission and vision.

In all activities and endeavors, Concordia will embrace and live out innovation and institutional creativity while it ensures operational effectiveness and demonstrate stewardship of its human, intellectual, physical and financial resources which will ensure long term viability and advancement of the mission and vision of the university.

**STRATEGIC GOALS FOR 2024**

As marks of our attainment of this vision, the Council of Trustees has adopted the following strategic goals for 2024:

**THEME ATTAINMENT:** Concordia will ensure high levels of attainment of the Core Themes (Lutheran, Rigor, and Servant Leadership) in the midst of a changing environment.

**INTENTIONAL ENROLLMENT:** Concordia will serve an increasing number of qualified and diverse students who respect its values and mission.

**PHYSICAL CAMPUSES:** Concordia will continue to enhance and expand its physical campuses and collegiate and community activities as sources of institutional strength.

**STUDENT SUCCESS:** Concordia will provide strong support for student choice, access and success.

**TRANSFORMATIVE ALUMNI:** Concordia will graduate well-prepared alumni who will enter meaningful vocations and serve as transformative leaders in the communities they serve.

**FACULTY & STAFF EXCELLENCE:** Concordia will provide for a qualified, diverse and caring faculty and staff.

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS:** Concordia will develop, expand and diversify strategic partnerships that advance its mission and vision.

**IMPACTFUL INNOVATION:** Concordia will be marked by and known for innovative people, programs, relationships and applications of technology.

**LEADERSHIP CONTINUITY & COMMUNICATION:** Concordia will design and implement effective and efficient operational and institutional communications systems, and ensure the strength, development and continuity of leadership at all levels.

**STEWARDSHIP & VALUE:** Concordia will ensure good stewardship of its resources and long-term mission viability while safeguarding a strong value for return on student investment in their education.

**VISION 2024 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

Based on Vision 2024, and the analysis of strategic gaps, the Council of Trustees has adopted the following Vision 2024 strategic initiatives. These strategic initiatives are major, campus-wide, cross-departmental initiatives which will significantly advance vision attainment.

**Student Success:** This initiative is aimed at optimizing student success at Concordia through a focus on student recruitment, student access (including ability to pay), assessing and bridging gaps in student readiness, providing essential academic support, and identifying and removing barriers to retention.

→ **CHAMPION:** Glenn Smith / **CABINET SPONSOR:** Mark Wahlers

**Advancing the Academic Enterprise:** This initiative focuses both on continued institutional growth through program development and quality improvements, as well as enhancements to the core academic business of the university. This includes the development of a clear definition and assurance of rigor, and the enhancement of the involvement of the Deans and faculty, and responsiveness to the changing nature of the student body.

→ **CHAMPION:** Academic Council / **CABINET SPONSOR:** Mark Wahlers
Institutional Research, Assessment & Effectiveness: Identified four years ago, this strategic initiative has now become critical. Advancements in a variety of areas, including personnel, software and processes, are needed to develop sustainable systems that will: (1) define, measure and assess appropriate outcomes linked to institutional goals and objectives (strategic, academic, co-curricular, and support), (2) regularize/standardize institutional research, assessment and planning activities for decision-making, continuous improvement and accreditation purposes and (3) provide high quality, self-service information to departments/programs for their assessment and planning efforts.

→ CHAMPION: Ron Fonger / CABINET SPONSOR: Johnnie Driessner

Innovation and Technology Deployment: This strategic initiative advances the institutional commitment to create and nurture a campus-wide culture of innovation, an undertaking launched by the 2020 Vision strategic initiative of “Transforming Teaching and Learning.” This 2024 initiative requires the university to facilitate imaginative thinking and leverage technology to enhance both the effectiveness and efficiency of academic (including learning methods, modalities and delivery systems), co-curricular, administrative, and support activities.

→ CHAMPION: Shawn Daley / CABINET SPONSOR: Shawn Daley

Risk Management and Mitigation: This strategic initiative grows out of a recognition of the University need to create and implement regular, on-going systems for the identification, prioritization, and institutional response to emerging risk situations. This includes the more traditional elements of risk management mitigation (e.g. insurance audits, contract review), as well as the need for systems which ensure regular analysis of substantial internal and external factors and risks, and the creation of mitigation and contingency plans. Included on the initial list are institutional governance structure, leadership succession and training, and partner concentration.

→ CHAMPION: Jilma Meneses / CABINET SPONSOR: Jilma Meneses

Branding: This initiative focuses on improving brand clarity and strength, brand attributes, enhancing brand awareness, leveraging opportunities to increase engagement in new marketing channels, and ensuring the development of a comprehensive plan for strategic communications. The initiative needs to differentiate local and national branding and provide a framework for sharing Concordia’s unique position in the marketplace in a consistent and compelling way.

→ CHAMPION: Shari Altree / CABINET SPONSOR: Kevin Matheny

3toPhD: This strategic initiative represents a continuation of a 2020 strategic initiative which is not yet been sufficiently operationalized to be departmentalized. This initiative includes the ongoing capital project, the continued evolution of programmatic elements (ECE, Health and Wellness, etc.), expansion and clarification of service opportunities, and finalization of a plan for operationalization (governance, departmental relationships resources, etc.).

→ CHAMPION: Gary Withers /Kevin Matheny / CABINET SPONSOR: Gary Withers/Kevin Matheny