

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SYSTEM
ODYSSEY TO EXTRAORDINARY
FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



JANUARY 2025

We lead the world in transforming lives and communities to an extraordinary future through our enduring commitment to creating and sharing knowledge, inspiring and nurturing discovery and through forging and sustaining relationships built upon trust.

We do this as a University community by building upon our legacy of excellence and our commitment to a future of the extraordinary.

EXTRAORDINARY TEACHING & LEARNING:

Establish the University of Nebraska System with all of its educational programs as the most extraordinary learner-centered university with nationally recognized programs and top-tier faculty and staff.

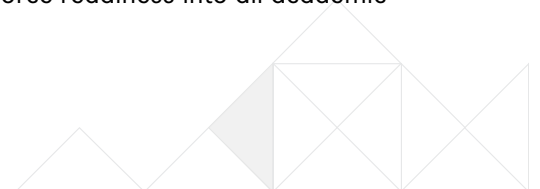
After a review of campus suggestions, responses cluster into the following themes:

- *Inspiring All Future Learners*
- *Supporting Faculty Success*
- *Curriculum Innovation and Alignment*
- *Transforming the Learning Environment*

Inspiring All Future Learners: Themes for this topic include inspiring all learners with multidisciplinary experiential learning/internships, clear paths to graduation, and rethinking ways to create unique and personalized opportunities that create distinctive learning environments that create true student success.

Supporting Faculty Success: Themes for this topic include stimulating innovation by supporting instructors, creating a culture of extraordinary scholarship based upon teaching excellence, and implementing new and transformative teaching strategies.

Curriculum Innovation and Alignment: Themes for this topic include reimagining traditional curriculum, pedagogy and assessment strategies (e.g. competency-based curriculum), non-curricular opportunities, high technology skills and incorporating unique workforce readiness into all academic programs.



Transforming the Learning Environment: Themes for this topic include using the most advanced technology to support the learning environment and learner experiences, enhancing customized student support services, and supporting facility innovation to enhance outcomes across the academic spectrum with focus on key high enrollment/high DFW pipeline courses and programs.

EXTRAORDINARY RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITY:

Establish the University of Nebraska System research and creative activity scope and prominence as widely recognized for extraordinary societal impact as a top tier institution.

After a review of campus suggestions, responses cluster into the following themes:

- *Building a Common NU Research Identity*
- *Internal Programmatic Growth and Alignment*
- *External Collaborative Growth and Alignment*

Building a Common NU Research Identity: Themes for this topic include the identification and growth of specific top-tier, highly impactful federally funded research programs. Example NU strategy might be to focus on identifying and configuring such programs into optimal structural units (such as a “Human Performance”, “National Security”, “Digital Agriculture”, “Economic Development”, “Environmental Health”, etc.) and ramping up these programs so as to improve metrics for federal, state and private research expenditures yielding continuous growth in each designated area of excellence.

Internal Programmatic Growth and Alignment: Themes for this topic include providing an integrated infrastructure that supports research and innovation (including personnel, facilities and advanced technology), setting measurable goals, creating cross-campus/integrated research collaborations, and creating avenues to foster talent and attract top-tier researchers.

External Collaborative Growth and Alignment: Themes for this topic include branching efforts between private sectors and NU, supporting pathways for accelerating innovation, technology transfer and commercialization, building frameworks across campuses, disciplines and external organizations by setting measurable goals for national rankings.

EXTRAORDINARY PARTNERSHIPS & ENGAGEMENT:

Establish the University of Nebraska System and our engagement partners as having the highest-quality and impact that are recognized for extraordinary rural and urban outcomes. ▲

After a review of campus suggestions, responses cluster into the following themes:

- *Partnerships & Alignment Across NU*
- *Partnerships Across the Nebraska Region*
- *Partnerships Beyond Nebraska and the US*

Partnerships & Alignment Across NU: Themes for this topic include supporting sustainable collaborations and partnerships across all campuses and disciplines within the educational, research and service missions, using policy, technology, finances and incentives to eliminate silos and bridge existing and future gaps.

Partnerships Across Nebraska Region: Themes for this topic include partnerships that create new and stronger opportunities for students, faculty and staff that provide community impact, expand K-12, agricultural, health care, military and industry collaborations that lead to overall betterment and growth of all populations within the state.

Partnerships Beyond Nebraska: Themes for this topic include fostering partnerships such as with alumni, businesses, agriculture, health care, military and public sector networks, including with private with national/global leaders to forge new and stronger relationships that support quality of life, economic development and allow NU to create future mission driven opportunities.

EXTRAORDINARY CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT:

Establish the University of Nebraska System campuses, across all their missions, as having an extraordinarily vibrant and engaging culture in environments that are safe, welcoming.

After a review of campus suggestions, responses cluster into the following themes:

- *Defining a Distinctive Culture*
- *Campus Safety and Security*
- *Work Life Quality and Experience*

Defining a Distinctive Culture: Themes for this topic include creating a unified, defined and distinctive culture across our 500 mile wide NU campuses and our myriad of statewide partnership sites. The themes focused on arts and culture, supportive workspaces, engagement, belonging, communication, technology and thriving campus student and employee communities.

Campus Safety and Security: Themes for this topic include creating, rehearsing and continuously strengthening of integrated system wide safety plans with focus on advanced technology applied to incident prevention, early awareness, communications, management and recovery.

Workplace Quality and Experience: Themes for this topic include creating an attractive workplace experience that provides exceptional benefits, health and wellness, entertainment, professional development, and personal support.

EXTRAORDINARY STEWARDSHIP & EFFECTIVENESS:

Establish the University of Nebraska System as an extraordinarily effective, efficient, and sustainable organization for planning and implementation of all mission-driven goals.



After a review of campus suggestions, responses cluster into the following themes:

- *Creating Sustainable Value, Effectiveness and Efficiency*
- *Data Driven Decisions and Related Communication*
- *Driving Value from Fiscal Responsibility and Stewardship*

Creating Sustainable Value, Effectiveness and Efficiency: Themes for this topic include creating value by identification and evaluation of structures, systems, processes, and areas that are redundant or inefficient, raising an awareness of these issues, then eliminating redundancy and inefficiency where possible across the system.

Data Driven Decisions and Related Communication: Themes for this topic include using data and proactive communication to support decision-making to align financial, facility and human resources with strategic academic priorities and by eliminating unnecessary campus and program separations to streamline and improve efficiency.

Driving Value from Fiscal Responsibility and Stewardship: Themes for this topic include the efficient use of resources and committing to sustainability, including performance-based outcomes driven budget models that create incentives for extraordinary performance of individuals and programs across the system that focus on access, affordability and academic excellence.

