

Criterion 1: Mission

The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.

CORE COMPONENTS

1. A. The institution's mission is broadly understood within the institution and guides its operations.
1. B. The mission is articulated publicly.
1. C. The institution understands the relationship between its mission and the diversity of society.
1. D. The institution's mission demonstrates commitment to the public good.

Minot State University developed a new strategic mission and vision, Empowering Generations, during the 2015-17 academic years; the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education approved Empowering Generations September 29, 2016.

Minot State University is a public university dedicated to excellence in education, scholarship, and community engagement achieved through rigorous academic experiences, active learning environments, commitment to public service, and a vibrant campus life. (MSU Mission Statement)

Empowering Generations was developed by faculty, staff, students, and community leaders through participation in a project council, subcommittees, focus groups, and surveys. Open forums and newsletters conveyed updates of the process.

Consistent with the new mission, MSU strives for educational excellence through external program accreditation and program review, annual internal program assessment, and hiring of high-quality faculty.

MSU student support services are consistent with the mission and are provided through the Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning (CETL); the POWER (Trio) program, and academic advising (enhanced by the Academic Advising Council); and rigorous academic experiences through Honors, study abroad, student competitions, faculty/student research, clinical experiences, internships, and student organizations.

MSU's enrollment profile includes area high school graduates, community college transfers, and Minot Air Force Base personnel, as well as students from throughout the U.S., Canada, and many international locations.

MSU's planning and budgeting priorities align with and support the mission statement, even in the face of continuous budget reductions during 2015-17. MSU addressed these continued reductions as proactively as possible, supporting the new mission statement by creating a broad plan to prioritize sustaining the high-quality student experience.

Empowering Generations is supported by four vision statements and six goals. Each goal includes objectives and action items. Empowering Generations is available on the MSU website and in the 2017-18 catalogs and the Faculty Handbook; and the mission and vision are displayed in all campus buildings.

MSU's constituents, as identified in the mission statement, are the public; this public includes current and future students and their parents, area businesses, government, and organizations. Special populations include Native Americans, veterans, active military and families, and first-generation students.

Objectives and action items set forth in Empowering Generations are attainable. For example, first-year student retention and six-year graduation rate goals have been established for 2023 at 80% and 50%, respectively. These rates are currently at 70% and 43% and have been trending upward the past 3-5 years.

As expressed throughout Empowering Generations, MSU is dedicated to its role in a multicultural society:

Vision: MSU will deliver high-quality education where, when, and how it is needed to a diverse, multi-generational student population.

Goal 1, Objective 1: MSU will meet the needs of a wide range of communities through curricular and co-curricular programs supporting diverse and multi-generational learners.

Goal 3, Objective 1: MSU pledges to create an institutional environment that supports student, faculty, and staff success by providing support and institutional resources to accommodate all learners.

Goal 3, Objective 5: MSU will expand an environment that values and supports diversity.

Two campus committees, the University Diversity Committee and the Faculty Senate Curricular Diversity and Campus Climate Committee, are dedicated to diversity. General Education coursework focusing on diversity is required of all students.

MSU's Multicultural Support Services, Veterans Services, POWER Center, and Office of International Programs offer

support and opportunities to specific student populations; and MSU hosts and participates in campus and community activities, such as the Norsk Hostfest, to celebrate diversity.

MSU's inclusive approach to diversity focuses on awareness, education, and involvement through campus organizations and sponsored activities such as Democracy Café, POWER's Diversity Series, and the annual Pow Wow.

MSU hosts campus and community constituents in activities and ceremonies to honor groups and individuals. Events include Earth Day, Poppy Day, Flag Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Veterans Day services.

MSU facilities are available to the community for events, including athletic camps, regional and state basketball tournaments, business meetings, music performances and competitions, and academic events.

The MSU community regularly engages in public service. First-year experience students and faculty perform public service as a component of their coursework, and the College of Business Leadership Academy teams take on three or four major community service projects each year. Additionally, the Social Work students sponsor Freezin' for a Reason, and the Beaver Baseball team works with Dream Catchers.

TEAM ONE

Chair Gary Ross, Professor of Business Administration

Members Teresa Loftesnes, Director of Marketing
Tim Morris, Instructor of Math and Computer Science
Dionne Spooner, Assistant Professor of Social Work
Jay Wahlund, Assistant Professor of Accounting and Finance
Deb Wentz, Executive Assistant to the President, Evidence Coordinator

