

The University of Minnesota Twin Cities Will Be Preeminent in Solving the Grand Challenges of a Diverse and Changing World

As a Vitaly Engaged 21st-Century Research University, We Will:

Leverage Our Breadth and Depth to Take on Society’s Grand Challenges in Research, Creative Work, and Curriculum	Support Excellence and Reject Complacency	Aggressively Recruit, Retain, and Promote Field-Shaping Researchers and Teachers	Build a Culture of Reciprocal Engagement That Capitalizes on Our Location	
<p><i>Marshal the University’s research and creative capacity to address grand challenges critical to our state, nation, and world</i></p> <p>More coherent and coordinated approach to cross-disciplinary grand-challenges research</p> <p>Jump-start institutional transformation by broadening areas of interdisciplinary focus where we have robust work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable, Healthy, Secure Food • Advancing Industry While Conserving the Environment and Addressing Climate Change • Building Vibrant Communities that Enhance Human Potential and Collective Well-Being in a Diverse and Changing Society <p>Bottom-up support for emerging challenge work</p> <p>Recognize interdisciplinary work in P&T and regular evaluation</p> <p>Ensure resources are in place for research goals</p>	<p><i>Prepare students to meet 21st-century challenges: new models of engaged, place-based education for tomorrow’s leaders</i></p> <p>Evolve liberal education requirements to integrate grand-challenges (pilot/phased approach)</p> <p>Develop grand-challenges co-curricular educational, research, and engagement opportunities</p> <p>Develop Grand Challenges Scholars Program</p> <p>Develop more University seminars on grand-challenges topics</p> <p>Develop undergraduate minors on grand-challenge topics</p>	<p><i>Build on our strengths to create an invigorated culture at all levels—ambition, challenge, exploration, and innovation</i></p> <p>Better align our time and money with our strategic priorities</p> <p>Implement a broad campus climate initiative that pursues diversity, accountability, and civility, as well as academic freedom</p> <p>Remove obstacles: decrease administrative burdens, make stop-doing lists, streamline processes</p> <p>Improve communication: get better at expediting problem resolution; obtain timely and useful info from graduates for curriculum development and advising</p>	<p><i>Create a transformational culture of innovation in which there is flexibility as well as responsibility and accountability</i></p> <p>Invigorate the process for recruiting the best researchers and teachers: establish appropriate resources for recruiting and hiring and permit strategic flexibility; aggressive approach to partner hires; improve diversity</p> <p>Reinvigorate the faculty campus interview process</p> <p>Ensure our culture encourages transformational scholarship: excellence for department heads; incentives to keep field-shapers; more strategic use of faculty awards; recruit and mentor excellent grad students; regular reviews of centers; incentives for directing major interdisciplinary centers</p>	<p><i>Support dynamic University-community partnerships to advance discovery, create pathways for students, and benefit our state and world</i></p> <p>Build engagement culture: review criteria for evaluating engaged scholarship across units; include engagement in reviews of faculty members’ research and teaching; review other policies/practices; expand training for faculty, staff, and students</p> <p>Convene community, business, and government partners around grand challenges</p> <p>Expand community-engaged grand-challenges learning and career pathways for students</p> <p>Make engagement more visible; create “front doors” for community and business stakeholders</p>