

**Office of Innovation and Economic Development
Strategic Vision & Values
Goals, Strategies and Key Indicators**

April 30, 2019

As one of the key departments supporting economic engagement with external stakeholders, the goals outlined in this report are related to the Office of Innovation and Economic Development's mission to support relationships with industry, workforce development as well as innovation and commercialization. This mission touches upon all three of the University of Maine values of Fostering Learner Success, Creating and Innovating for Maine and Beyond, and Growing and Stewarding Partnerships, and ideally, each of our activities is the fusion of these three values.

Goal: UMaine will be the **most efficient** and **responsive** university among our peers for faculty/industry collaborations, to enhance student experiences and enable the introduction of **more** new products and solutions to benefit Maine and the nation.

Strategies:

- Build a culture of innovation in the university through outreach, education and training, supportive policies and procedures, and appropriate resources and incentives.
- Engage more industry collaborators in work with research centers, student capstone experiences, industry consortia and other innovation partnerships. Enable faculty and staff participation in these partnerships.
- Improve organizational structures, work-flow systems and policies to enhance efficiency and remove barriers to commercialization and industry collaborations.
- Support faculty, staff and students with cutting-edge programs such as MIRTA (Maine Innovation, Research and Technology Accelerator) and I-Corps training. Provide resources to bring innovations to market and society in all areas of research and scholarly activity.
- Increase awareness of research and innovation resources and impact effectively among both external and internal audiences.
- Promote the University of Maine in admissions activities for its unique student innovation and entrepreneurship opportunities including the Foster Center, Innovation Engineering and work opportunities in research and scholarly activities.

Key metrics:

- Number of private sector contracted partners
- Number of agreements (licenses, master research, facility use, etc.)
- Number of organizations served (including number of industry-sponsored capstone courses and other partnerships)
- Number of faculty and staff participating in industry collaborations and commercialization activities
- Number of students paid through external grants and contracts
- Number of faculty, staff and students participating in innovation and entrepreneurial training
- Number of student start-ups and students participating in entrepreneurial courses and programs

Goal: Every student has a meaningful internship or similar external applied learning experience prior to graduation.

Strategies:

- Expand Flagship Internship to help coordinate and support internships for every student prior to graduation.
- Expand the Innovate for Maine internship program to specifically support students engaging in research and innovation-related activities with Maine's private and non-profit sectors.
- Work with the University of Maine Alumni Association to connect students to alumni who successfully live and work in Maine.

Key Metric:

- Number of students participating in Flagship and Innovate for Maine internships.

Goal: The University of Maine will be seen as a leading driver of economic development throughout the state of Maine and as an essential partner in economic and community development initiatives.

Strategies:

- Increase awareness of the University of Maine's economic impact to the state and its leading sectors. Emphasize the University's statewide role and impact.
- Encourage alumni to live and work in Maine. Engage them as ambassadors for the university's assets.
- Develop regional and industry sector outreach initiatives.

Key Metrics:

- Number of engagement activities
- Number of alumni living in Maine

Goal: Every student will have a holistic mentorship team to help make effective decisions and to prepare them for careers and community engagement.

Strategy:

- With the current and upcoming generations of students, we need a robust advising program offering not just academic advising, but career and life skills mentoring. Each student should get an advising "team" of volunteer faculty and staff mentors with diverse perspectives to help them thrive and succeed through their college career and be better prepared to enter the workforce.

Key Metric:

- Student retention rates
- Student satisfaction in "Life after UMaine" survey