



VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

VCU Quest for Distinction Themes and goals 2016-18

Theme I

Become a leader among national research universities in providing all students with high-quality learning/living experiences focused on inquiry, discovery and innovation in a global environment

Goals and strategies:

1. Recruit and retain talented and diverse students who will graduate at a higher rate than our Quest peers and serve as leaders in a well-educated workforce
 - a. Develop experiential learning curriculum (Real World Experience or RWE) for full implementation with fall 2017 entering cohort (freshmen and transfer students)
 - b. Strengthen programs / initiatives that support access, reduce student debt, increase internal financial assistance, and speed timely graduation
 - c. Expand online course and program offerings
 - d. Improve / redesign gateway courses
 - e. Strengthen advising / career counseling
 - f. Increase internal Student financial aid (% UG need met; % 1st Professional student need met)
2. Recruit and retain progressive and diverse faculty, staff and senior leadership with the skills and talents to advance quality teaching and learning, along with high-impact research, scholarship and creative expression
 - a. Improve recruitment and retention of diverse faculty and staff
 - b. Implement iCubed (research pipeline, cluster hiring and retention initiative)

Theme II

Attain distinction as a fully integrated urban, public research university through contributions in human health, research, scholarship and creative expression that advance knowledge and enhance the quality of life

Goals and strategies:

1. Leverage health system/university assets to address social determinants of health
2. Increase interdisciplinary research and interprofessional education, scholarship and practice among arts, humanities and sciences Improve recruitment and retention of diverse faculty and staff
3. Sustain the success of high-performing research institutes and centers and engage stakeholders in identifying promising areas of research and academic program investment
 - a. Receive NCI re-designation for Massey Cancer Center

Theme III

Become a national model for community engagement and regional impact

Goals and strategies:

1. Finalize design and begin implementation of the Center for Urban Communities (preliminary focus areas: K-12 education/lifelong learning and health literacy and access)
 - a. Complete development of C4Uc infrastructure
 - b. Create work/implementation plan to target identified community issue
 - c. Launch of Community-Engaged Partnership Map
2. Leverage and align efforts of students, faculty and staff to enhance, disseminate and integrate community-engaged scholarship, student service learning opportunities and outreach
3. Implement strategies to partner with city/region in advancing economic development
 - a. Articulation / establishment of key strategies in advancing economic development