





COLLEGE OF
NATURAL &
SOCIAL SCIENCES

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CAL STATE LA

COLLEGE OF
NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES STRATEGIC PLAN







STATEMENT FROM THE DEAN

The College of Natural and Social Sciences is committed to programs of academic excellence that provide access and opportunity for our uniquely diverse student body. The college boasts 15 academic departments and programs that serve nearly 5,500 undergraduates and over 500 graduate students.

In October 2017, the college embarked on an ambitious strategic plan to align with the University's strategic plan. The Strategic Planning Committee represented key stakeholders of the college, who were committed to addressing the needs of our students, and providing a framework for transformation, innovation, and forward thinking. The Plan, which is intended to be a living document, is guided by three strategic priorities:

1. Intentional learning environments
2. Socially conscious and equity-minded civic engagement
3. Impactful (inter)disciplinary research

The college will implement programs and forge community partnerships that broaden educational experiences for students, thereby enhancing their ability to contribute to society.

Our vision is to meet the challenges of a dynamic society. The strategic plan is to establish goals that will help us realize our vision for our students and our community.

Pamela E. Scott Johnson, Ph.D.
Dean

MISSION

We are agents of change, promising to serve and transform greater Los Angeles and the global society through innovative and intentional learning environments, socially conscious and equity-minded civic engagement, and impactful (inter)disciplinary research.

VISION

We strive to meet the challenges of an ever-changing and dynamic society

VALUES : Collaborations | Intentionality | Scholarship | Civic-mindedness







INTENTIONAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

We foster personal and professional growth, based on our students' strengths, needs and interests, in an inclusive and student-centered environment that is accessible and welcoming.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Goal:

Create an accessible and welcoming student-centered learning environment that cultivates professional growth, career readiness, and global leaders

Key Activities:

- Promote inclusive, culturally relevant, and innovative pedagogical approaches
- Integrate participatory, high impact learning practices into curriculum
- Leverage use of technology to strengthen student engagement and teaching and learning
- Build capacity for all students to gain undergraduate research scholarly experiences
- Strengthen transition-to-career support services
- Provide proactive, consistent, and quality advising and academic support
- Recruit and retain a diverse faculty and staff

Metrics:

- Decreased "D" grade/Fail Withdraw rates
- Increased student retention and persistence
- Increased graduation rates
- Increased research and internship experiences
- Reduced disparity in graduation rates
- Track job placement post graduation
- Increased number of graduates entering post-graduate and professional programs
- Increase the diversity of the faculty and staff
- Increased faculty participation in pedagogical professional development & post training implementation
- Increased staff professional development participation

learning

SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS AND EQUITY-MINDED CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

We cultivate our unique talents through a strong community and intentionally-designed, meaningful engagement.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Goal:

Cultivate an environment that integrates and values civic engagement

Key Activities:

- Foster collaborative partnerships among and within the University, alumni, and communities of the greater Los Angeles area
- Promote effective communication, shared planning and goals, and collaborative decision-making through an equity-minded lens
- Create outreach efforts that align with community needs and interests

Metrics:

- Increase formalized and centralized outreach efforts
- Increase alumni participation
- Increase participation and expertise in scholarly-focused civic engagement
- Increase number of collaborative partnerships and their impact

engage







IMPACTFUL (INTER)DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

We deliver transformational social and scientific teaching and learning for our students while producing discipline-specific and interdisciplinary research, scholarship, and creative activities that elucidate the natural world and the human condition.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Goal:

Create academic distinction in key research areas that establishes NSS as a source of expertise

Key Activities:

- Promote the teacher-scholar model by supporting faculty research and creative projects, and engagement with the community
- Integrate research experiences into the curriculum
- Develop interdisciplinary research clusters
- Strengthen the impact of international engagement opportunities

Metrics:

- Increase external funding to support research
- Increase authentic international engagement for students
- Track research impact
- Increase number of courses with embedded authentic research
- Increase the dissemination and distribution of research and works

impact