

Western Rising
A New Direction for the Future
Strategic Plan 2024 – 2030

Dear Community Partnership Subcommittee members:

The strategic planning process is moving to Phase II- Envisioning Our Future. During this phase the various subcommittees will meet with university and community stakeholders to develop the critical goals and objectives that stem from the strategic priorities identified through community participation during Phase I.

From the recently completed activities of Phase I- mission/vision/values survey, the strategic planning launch session led by the president, and the open forums, the following have emerged as the six key strategic priority areas: **a) Reframing of the mission, vision, and values; b) Continuous pursuit of academic excellence and student support services; c) Advancing institutional culture that reflects transparency and collaborative decision making; d) Securing sustainable and thriving financial vitality; e) Promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging; and f) Contributing to local and regional community building by strengthening partnerships:**

Please find below information pertaining to your subcommittee and assigned tasks.

Strategic Priority area(s): Strengthening Community Partnerships

Charge:

In the pursuit of excellence and growth at Western Connecticut State University, the cultivation of robust community partnerships stands as a pillar of our strategic vision. The Community Partnerships Subcommittee is thus charged with a vital role in the university's Strategic Planning Exercise, where your insights, expertise, and collaborative efforts will forge the pathways to meaningful engagement with our local, regional, and potentially global communities.

Your mission is to identify, enhance, and innovate the ways in which Western Connecticut State University interacts with and contributes to the community beyond our campus. In doing so, the following objectives are to be your guide and measure:

Evaluate current academic, business, non-profit, governmental, and community-based collaborations.

Propose ways to build and strengthen partnerships that result in strategic alignment with the university's mission and values, as well as the community's needs and strengths.

Recommend innovative strategies for community engagement that broaden our university's impact and visibility. Identify new partnership opportunities, outreach programs, and community service initiatives that benefit both the university and the community.

Identify opportunities for partnerships to enhance the educational experience of our students and to expand the research capabilities of our faculty.

Recommend practices that ensure the long-term sustainability of partnerships, including regular reviews and adaptable frameworks that allow for the evolution of the partnerships as goals and needs change over time.

Explore ways to institutionalize community partnerships as a core aspect of university operations, ensuring that they continue to be a priority in the years to come.

Deliverables: A draft document at the end of this phase that covers the following:

- a. A draft Community Partnership vision for the university
- b. Goals based on the draft vision
- c. Objectives for each of the goals identified
- d. Key activities and tactical strategies to achieve the objectives and goals
- e. Identify organizational units responsible for implementation of the key tactical strategies

Key expected steps: To complete its work, the subcommittee will undertake the following activities:

- a. Hold timely subcommittee meetings for discussions and ideation
- b. Conduct two open forums to seek stakeholders' input and guidance on the assigned strategic priority areas
- c. Launch a survey to seek stakeholders' input
- d. Consult the office of Institutional Research and Assessment for institutional data needs that will inform the work of the subcommittee
- e. Prepare a draft summary document outlining the findings from the forums, surveys, and discussions

Your work is of immense value to the current and future state of our university. It is through strong community partnerships that we extend our educational mission, apply academic insights to real-world challenges, and enrich the lives of our students and community members alike.

I am confident that under your guidance, Western Connecticut State University will become an even more integral and influential member of our local and extended community.

Thank you for your commitment to this essential component of our strategic planning efforts.

Warm regards,
Manohar Singh