

**Subject:** Request for Feedback on Draft Strategic Plan Update  
**From:** Provost Mary Ann Rankin <noreply@UMD.EDU>  
**Date:** 12/17/2015 4:52 PM  
**To:** <beise@MAIL.UMD.EDU>

Dear Campus Community,

The University of Maryland's Strategic Plan, "Transforming Maryland: Higher Expectations," set out a bold, ten-year road map for "elevating our rank among world-class universities." We have made tremendous progress since its adoption in 2008, and yet we know there is more work to be done. We will go farther and faster together than we will alone.

With that value in mind, President Loh and I are pleased to share with you the **draft** Flagship 2020 Strategic Plan Update, posted in full at <http://electricpub.umd.edu/clients/Flagship2020/news7.html>, along with a form that will allow you to comment on the elements of the Plan. This update builds on the success of the original Plan and supports our enduring mission to be "equal to the best" of public research universities. By design, this **draft** document does not include an estimate of the financial resources required to accomplish the stated goals, nor does it detail many specific initiatives in which we might invest. We expect to add these elements in a second draft after incorporating your input on the basic update document.

**We invite you to participate in the process to improve this draft by completing the feedback form and submitting it by January 29, 2016.**

This is the first of two opportunities for the University community to participate in the shaping of the 2020 Strategic Plan Update. Feedback from this first round will inform the discussion at the University Senate meeting on February 11, 2016. After that Senate meeting, there will be a second opportunity for feedback prior to a formal vote on the entire document at a future Senate meeting.

Since 2008, our rankings in virtually every area have risen. Our first-year retention rate and six-year graduation rate have improved dramatically, as have the academic profile and diversity of our student population. A new dynamic General Education curriculum was launched. Last year, faculty generated over \$550 million in research funding, the highest level in the history of our university. We also set a new university record by raising over \$200 million in private philanthropy in support of UMD faculty, programs, and students. And our surrounding community is undergoing a startling transformation with new private-public partnerships and exciting amenities all along Baltimore Avenue.

Our success in these areas, and many more, rests upon the collective strengths of you, the faculty, staff, and students of our university. The Flagship 2020 Strategic Plan Update charts a course for our continued success. It is intended to be our collective vision for the future of our great institution.

I truly appreciate your input and feedback to make this important plan as good as it can be.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Rankin  
Senior Vice President and Provost