The vision of UA Little Rock is to be a leading urban and metropolitan university that engages the city, the region and beyond through excellent teaching, research, and partnerships. We embrace our role as an anchor institution in the City of Little Rock and the Central Arkansas region, and we apply our expertise and knowledge to the needs and goals of our community, working with organizations, agencies, and individuals to improve the quality of life for all citizens. The goals and objectives present will help propel UA Little Rock's mission as a community-engaged institution.
INSTITUTIONAL GOALS: EXPERIENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Improve the student, faculty, and staff experience by cultivating an engaging campus community that promotes diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

Enhance community engagement through partnerships and collaborations involving faculty, staff, and students that address local, state, and regional needs.

University Affairs

Component Goal 1: Strengthen the university’s role as an anchor institution in Little Rock and the central Arkansas region.

OBJECTIVE 1: Research and implement anchor institution activities in human resources, purchasing, etc. (local buying and hiring).

» Strategy 1: Consider joining and/or adopting principles of national anchor institution movements (i.e. Brookings Institution, and Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities Anchor Learning Network).

» Strategy 2: Track and communicate the economic impact of UA Little Rock (payroll, purchasing, value of in-kind services, etc.).

Component Goal 2: Develop the capabilities necessary for sustained and impactful community engagement.

OBJECTIVE 1: Encourage a mindset of active collaboration with the community.

» Strategy 1: Explore the establishment of a flexible community engagement structure to enhance flexibility in addressing community needs (i.e. Bioventures at UAMS).

» Strategy 2: Explore the possibility of a central hub or office for community engagement coordination, fostering collaboration and resource allocation.

Component Goal 3: Infuse community need and service into degree and educational offerings.

OBJECTIVE 1: Communicate the importance and value of direct community engagement to students.

» Strategy 1: Incorporate stories of student community engagement into orientation sessions.

» Strategy 2: Create an annual community service fair/summit for student organizations and service learning classes, and develop a database for service learning opportunities.

OBJECTIVE 2: Increase experiential student opportunities. (i.e. service learning, internships, apprenticeships).

» Strategy 1: Increase the number of service learning courses across the curriculum.

» Strategy 2: Create on-campus experiences for civic engagement and discussion.

» Strategy 3: Coordinate volunteer opportunities for classes, individuals, and student organizations.
INSTITUTIONAL GOALS: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ATTAINMENT

Enhance community engagement through partnerships and collaborations involving faculty, staff, and students that address local, state, and regional needs.

Strengthen educational attainment through academic programs leading to social and economic mobility and the achievement of students’ aspirational goals.

University Affairs

Component Goal 1: Collaborate with community partners to meet local, state, and regional cultural, economic development, educational, and social needs.

OBJECTIVE 1: Cultivate and maintain community partnerships.
  » Strategy 1: Expand the work of faculty and departments with standing relationships with respect to the autonomy and depth of individual community engagement.
  » Strategy 2: Increase opportunities for community members to attend, participate and be involved in activities, facilities, and programs on the UA Little Rock campus (including Law School and Downtown Center locations).
  » Strategy 3: Document, evaluate, and communicate the university’s community engagement impact to increase its ongoing involvement as a critical community partner. (from community engagement; goal changed to strategy).

OBJECTIVE 2: Create a systematic approach to identifying local, state, and national needs in which UA Little Rock can play a responsive role.
  » Strategy 1: Identify UA Little Rock’s capabilities and core competencies in the areas of community, cultural, and economic development.
  » Strategy 2: Identify underserved populations the university should focus on and leverage past wins with specific populations to expand services.
  » Strategy 3: Identify community discussions/committees relevant to the university’s engagement and participate in community dialogues where the university can be a collaborative partner.

Component Goal 2: Enhance the university’s position in Little Rock and the central Arkansas region.

OBJECTIVE 1: Establish UA Little Rock’s anchor mission role in Little Rock through community-driven programs.
  » Strategy 1: Elevate the university’s role as a site for community engagement.
  » Strategy 2: Increase the visibility of the University District to further develop the surrounding neighborhoods based on residents’ needs.

OBJECTIVE 2: Enhance UA Little Rock’s role as a critical regional and state partner.
  » Strategy 1: Launch a yearly communication highlighting the university’s impact across Arkansas.
  » Strategy 2: Target strategic meetings and sessions to inform policymakers about UA Little Rock’s diverse programs.
INSTITUTIONAL GOALS: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ATTAINMENT

Enhance community engagement through partnerships and collaborations involving faculty, staff, and students that address local, state, and regional needs.

Strengthen educational attainment through academic programs leading to social and economic mobility and the achievement of students’ aspirational goals.

Component Goal 3: Develop the capabilities necessary for sustained and impactful community engagement.

OBJECTIVE 1: Institutionalize the work of community engagement in personnel processes.

» Strategy 1: Include community engagement as part of new hire onboarding and communication.

» Strategy 2: Consider enhancing incentives for faculty and staff to practice community-based work.

» Strategy 3: Partner with administrative units to establish annual community engagement goals that align with departmental and university missions.
University Affairs Committee

Barrett Allen – Director University District

Mark Baillie – Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Brian Berry – Vice Provost of Research and Dean of the Graduate School

Derek Boyce – Director of Development, University Initiatives/Corporate & Foundation Relations

Marta Cieslak – Director UA Little Rock Downtown Center

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