VISION 250: MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT

Who We Are: The College of Charleston is a nationally preeminent, comprehensive, public university deeply rooted in the liberal arts and sciences tradition, offering leading-edge programs in business, technology, education and languages and dedicated to its public mission of advancing the region’s economy, culture and future. The College empowers students, both undergraduate and graduate, to be engaged, ethical citizens and leaders in a global society.

Who We Will Be: Through its 10-year strategic plan with a goal of institutional greatness by its 250th anniversary in 2020, the College of Charleston will be committed to academic excellence, high-impact experiential learning opportunities and the power of place, providing world-class instruction in a world-class setting producing world-class minds. The College will achieve greatness – this “world-class” stature – through its student experience, which is and will continue to be what makes the College truly distinctive and nationally preeminent.

Like the College’s holistic approach to education, VISION 250 addresses three overarching themes related to the student experience: **mind, body and spirit**.

MIND The College is the Lowcountry’s capital of intellectual inquiry and a training ground for great thinkers and problem-solvers. The College’s faculty understands that knowledge is the best export of any society, and, together, they work to inspire and educate some of the country’s best and brightest students – with direct benefits to the city of Charleston and far beyond.

This is a boom time in Charleston’s history, with an unprecedented influx of industry and people. The College will respond and adapt accordingly so that its graduates will be equipped with wide-ranging, transferable skills for the 21st-century economy. Led by faculty dedicated to teaching, mentoring and research, the College will provide an even more dynamic student experience by addressing these key areas:

- Invest in more innovative programming/curricula
- Incorporate the tenets of sustainability literacy across all disciplines
- Commit more support to academic experience so that faculty have the resources they need to be exceptional scholar-teachers, mentors and partners in learning.

BODY Through Vision 250, the College will address the student body, especially its composition in relation to academic quality, diversity and inclusion, as well as the physical nature of campus (i.e., its facilities) and their connection to the student experience. Specifically, the College will focus on these key areas:

- Increase enrollment (both undergraduate and graduate)
- Expand the School of Professional Studies
- Raise average SAT/ACT scores (freshman class)
- Increase percentage/number of under-represented student populations (with a special emphasis on African American and international students)
- Improve retention rates
- Boost four-year graduation rates
- Prioritize facilities needs based on student impact.

SPIRIT The X-factor for any university is its culture – what values permeate its campus community, what kind of graduates does it produce. Spirit is more than just enthusiasm for a school. At the College, it speaks to character and maturity. Done well, graduates are ready – ready for career, ready for further academic study, ready for a life of learning. The College will cultivate this spirit by emphasizing the institution’s core values as well as focusing on these key areas:

- Increase the number of students participating in internship/professional experiences (striving to have all undergraduates complete at least one by graduation)
- Grow the number of students participating in study-away experiences
- Increase the number/appeal of activities that showcase the culture of intellectual inquiry and well-being for which students, College community members and other visitors attend on CofC campuses (such as lectures, conferences, workshops, performances, exhibitions and sporting events)