

# Update

REDEFINING COLLABORATION

Dear UM Faculty, Staff, and Students:

After a thoughtful and rigorous strategic planning process in which faculty, staff, and students put forth many hours of effort over several months, the implementation phase of the 2011-2016 UM Strategic Plan is now officially in progress. The University's deans, vice presidents, and leaders from the original planning committee, each of whom is responsible for chairing one of eight themes or four fundamental areas resulting from the strategic planning phase, lead the plan's implementation. This group forms the Executive Implementation Committee (EIC), and collectively embraces the principle that we are "Seven Schools | **One** University." The EIC is responsible for executing and monitoring the plan's implementation strategy. Some initial steps in the process include prioritizing the plan's 23 goals and 109 tactics. An open call for volunteers resulted in many of your University colleagues working alongside these leaders to generate the formal implementation strategy.

Every implementation team is now fully engaged. Teams meet regularly and give updates to the EIC on goal priority, phasing, and resource needs. Some goals and tactics are in progress or are quickly executable with little or no additional resources.

The fundamental area teams (i.e., information technology, communications, government and external relations, and faculty and staff training) are on a short time frame. Fundamental areas must complete both the planning and implementation phases by the end of September. The fundamental area leaders held Universitywide town halls in March and April to gather information to support their planning activities. Groups report to the EIC on their early findings and set strategic goals and tactics.

The University community continues to show its support for the planning process by attending town halls, making suggestions, and completing surveys. More than 2,000 of your colleagues participated in the communications and in the public safety surveys, providing valuable information to teams. We appreciate your support.

Stay tuned for future University announcements and periodic Web updates about our progress. Continue to be a part of the process to make us stronger than the sum of our parts. Visit our website at <http://www.umaryland.edu/strategicplan>.

Be a part of the process.

Visit our website at <http://www.umaryland.edu/strategicplan>  
for more information and opportunities to offer us feedback.