

President's Vision Statement

Slippery Rock University has embraced a simple but compelling vision for more than a decade: *Slippery Rock University will excel as a caring community of lifelong learners connecting with the world.*

We will fulfill this vision in the coming years by our commitment that Slippery Rock University will be the premier residential public university for this region. We believe that students who come to SRU will be provided the best educational and personal growth through a sustained immersion in the intellectual community made possible by capable, committed faculty and staff members in the living laboratory of our campus. Our pedagogical approach will rely on personal engagement with students as residents of our community.

The focus of our pedagogy is not on earning a diploma. Our focus is on developing people capable of making positive differences in the lives of others. We will develop people who understand the problems of our global society and have confidence in their skills and values to address those problems throughout their life. To this end, we are identifying five global imperatives around which to shape our strategic plan to address the educational needs for every student. These imperatives are adapting to global population dynamics, advancing our preeminence in the use of science and technology, understanding and embracing the contributions of other cultures, responding to environmental stewardship and intelligent resource utilization, and protecting our commitment to social mobility and the achievement of social justice.

To achieve our pedagogical focus in this residential laboratory, we expect our employees to be models of the values and civic responsibilities to which we wish our students to aspire. Everyone is a potential teacher. Our faculty members will be exemplary teachers first and foremost, fully credentialed, and committed to continuing professional development in their areas of academic responsibility. Our student life and support service employees will be actively engaged in helping our students become better citizens and develop their leadership talents. Our facilities and grounds staff members will demonstrate innovative stewardship of our resources and respect for our environment. Our administration will be the campus' servant-leaders for continuous improvement of our University goals and providing the support necessary to achieve our vision.

We believe that this "community of learners" is best maintained with an enrollment of approximately 8,500-9,000 for the near term (~2012). This target allows us to have sufficient critical mass to offer a rich variety of substantive academic programs and student support without losing a level of caring service and instruction. This target provides a budgeting model that is sustainable to weather projected demographic and state funding challenges forecast for the foreseeable future without adding undue financial burden on our students and their families.

Consequently, we will focus our primary recruitment on traditional-age undergraduates who seek a residential learning-community and who have the academic portfolio to excel in our competitive environment. We understand that for our community to be a meaningful learning experience within this vision, it must be representative of the diversity of our world. This means that we will affirmatively seek to attract and support students from across a wide-spectrum of life experiences and provide support for their academic, social, and economic needs.

We understand that we have a responsibility to be transparent to our constituents in our claims of quality and value. We will demonstrate accountability and stewardship by publicly posting understandable and comparable measures of educational outcomes, costs, and the results of our educational practices. We will demonstrate the credibility of our programs by achieving accreditation for all programs where accreditation is available. We will demonstrate our dedication to the teaching profession by employing 90% of our faculty members as full time. We will demonstrate the commitment of our faculty members to their disciplines by employing at least 90% who hold terminal degrees in their disciplines.

Finally, in our role as a public university we must provide for the betterment of the Commonwealth by creating new knowledge, generating economic growth, and elevating the cultural experiences of our citizens. Most noble of all is our public responsibility to produce competent, civil and caring citizens who will make their communities and our world a better place for all people to live and work.