



The Welcome Center, located at 42. W. Warren, on the corner of Woodward and Warren avenues, opened in fall 2002. The four-story building houses student services.

Concluding Statement

Wayne State University has made great strides during the last decade. The undergraduate experience has been fundamentally changed by increased emphasis on and support of an Honors Program, construction of residence halls and other facilities that have created a more residential campus community, and recruitment of students with unprecedented credential levels. Wayne State's professional schools and graduate programs are strong, and the University is firmly established as one of the Carnegie-rated academic institutions with "very high research activity." Wayne State has also been an integral part of the reinvigoration of Detroit — culturally, intellectually, and commercially. At the same time, the University has been building bridges across the globe.

The University currently faces several challenges: to ensure that the whole range of admitted students enjoy academic success; to sustain forward momentum in our scholarly and research accomplishments; to solidify and enhance our role outside Wayne County, while maintaining our commitment to the city of Detroit; and, most fundamentally, to acquire sufficient resources to fund the thriving urban university that Michigan has enjoyed and deserves. In this self-study, we have described our achievements and strategies to surmount challenges to help Wayne State fulfill its great mission. Our Strategic Plan for 2001 to

2006 has provided the foundation for our current achievements, and the Strategic Plan from 2006 to 2011 will guide us in our further development.

It is the calling of all great universities to provide high-quality academic programs. Wayne State's special challenge is to promote research at the highest national and international levels while simultaneously excelling at meeting the challenge of teaching a diverse undergraduate student body. Both parts of this one scholarly calling require relentless effort. Wayne State will continue its efforts to draw upon its special urban setting to benefit all of the greater metropolitan area, and, indeed, the state and the nation. It also will continue to assist its diverse constituencies understanding the important roles WSU plays. This is essential to the recruiting of students, the obtaining of resources, and the fulfillment of the school's mission.

Although Wayne State has made great strides in recruiting and addressing the needs of a strong top tier of students — and it must continue doing so — it must enhance efforts to position every admitted student to achieve success. Retention of a greater share of students talented enough to be admitted is important not only as a way to attract resources, but as a matter of fundamental fairness.

None of these challenges can be surmounted without sufficient resources. The issue of resources has become one of heightened urgency with each year that state funding has declined in real and even nominal terms. Wayne State, as an urban research university with nursing and medical schools but with a still largely commuter, part-time student body, is inherently more costly to operate per FTE than other public universities. At the same time, Wayne State makes special contributions to the state of Michigan — by attracting federal research dollars, by spinning off commercial ventures, and by educating engineers, scientists, and professionals who disproportionately remain in Michigan to stimulate the economy and meet the needs of Michiganians. Wayne State needs to accelerate efforts to help all of Michigan better appreciate its singular role and work creatively to increase revenues from sources other than state appropriations, while keeping education affordable and accessible. To meet these great challenges, we will need to come together around our new Strategic Plan to identify priorities, align resources with these priorities, and monitor progress and challenges in order to provide the high-quality education our students deserve.

