

2026 Strategic Plan Summary

Reimagine **possible**

Metropolitan State University of Denver's 2026 Strategic Plan serves as a guiding framework for decision-making and provides clear direction for the future of the University to drive success, sustainability and excellence. MSU Denver's vision is a natural extension of what it does best to educate and meet each student where they are in life.

Vision Statement

We are a nationally recognized leader for social mobility - where students of all ages and backgrounds build a better, more equitable Colorado through innovative and transformative education.

MSU Denver Core Values

MSU Denver's mission, vision, ongoing operations and strategic planning are informed by a core set of values that define who we are - and aspire to be - as a university. They are: **Excellence, Community, Access, Diversity and Respect.**



Excellence

MSU Denver faculty members are known for their commitment to excellence in student-centered teaching and scholarship. Staff members are dedicated to the delivery of high quality wraparound services for all students. Roadrunners strive for excellence in all they do, embracing the challenges in front of them and rising to reach their full potential.



Community

MSU Denver is an engaged urban university that promotes mutual relationships between the University and the community where we apply the intellectual strength of our faculty and the energy of our students to solve real-world problems. We have the ability to benefit the economic health, cultural health and well-being of the community and promote the public good through the transformation of urban communities in metropolitan Denver.



Access

Inspired by the students we serve, many of whom are low-income or first-generation, our self-confident academic community breaks down traditional boundaries and takes responsibility for meeting the challenges of access to education in the 21st century.



Diversity

MSU Denver has been committed to diversity, equity and inclusive excellence since its inception. This is evidenced by our efforts to embed systemic practices to achieve a high-quality, culturally sensitive education; is reflected by our leadership, faculty, staff and students; and is woven into the fabric of our University.



Respect

We boldly seek a climate of mutual respect and reflection that supports different beliefs and perspectives and promotes the open exchange of ideas. Because we respect everyone, communicate effectively, promote transparency, embrace dialogue, cultivate trust and respect governance structures, we are consistently able to make decisions with a students-first mentality.



Pillar I Student Access, Service and Achievement

MSU Denver attracts, develops, credentials and graduates tenacious students who realize their goals and craft their futures. Regardless of where they have been, we meet them where they are and launch them to where they want to go.

Goals:

- 1. Attract, prepare and graduate students equipped to succeed in the 21st century.
2. Be Colorado's solution for closing the educational-attainment gap.
3. Provide an ideal transfer experience for students.

Pillar II Student-centered Academic Excellence

MSU Denver has a richly talented faculty of teacher-scholars. We deliver a relevant, rigorous and innovative academic experience. We empower our faculty to support our diverse students in growing as scholars, becoming leaders in their fields and succeeding in their personal, professional and civic lives.

Goals:

- 1. Produce rigorous and enriching learning experiences tailored to meet students where they are.
2. Build up on our signature academic experience while providing the Roadrunner Difference.

Pillar III Civic and Economic Catalyst

MSU Denver activates the talents and passions of our students, alumni, faculty and staff. As an Anchor Institution with a vibrant urban campus, we serve as a civic, economic and talent-rich catalyst to meet the opportunities and challenges facing Colorado and its diverse communities.

Goals:

- 1. Be the indispensable and agile provider of talent and skill that drives Colorado's economy.
2. Be the convener for problem-solving and forecasting community needs through civic discourse.
3. Enrich the greater Denver community through lifelong learning and engagement.

Pillar IV Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

MSU Denver embodies diversity in all its rich representations and expressions. It is who we are. We commit ourselves to justice that provides a foundation for equity and inclusion. We mend internal and external inequities through the cultivation of a vibrant, healthy community.

Goals:

- 1. Cultivate and sustain a culture of inclusive and intersectional teaching, learning and practice.
2. Be an agent of healing, helping to convene and celebrate Denver's diverse communities and cultures.
3. Serve as a model Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) for higher education.

Pillar V Organizational Agility and Sustainability

MSU Denver achieves agility by investing in our human talent. We improve our physical infrastructure with an eye toward environmentally sustainable practices, and we work together to create a culture of continuous process improvement.

Goals:

- 1. Be Colorado's most desired place of employment.
2. Diversify and grow the University's revenue streams for long-term sustainability.
3. Champion the reinvestment and development of the Auraria Campus.

Looking Ahead

Five imperatives that will drive this plan:

- Remain committed to providing a rigorous and enriching university education.
• Foster an anti-racism and inclusive environment.
• Design a sustainable business model that allows MSU Denver to grow and thrive.
• Continue to build MSU Denver's reputation and brand.
• Demonstrate a responsiveness through agility, flexibility and tenacity.

Progress on each pillar and goal will need to be evaluated and measured to course correct and mark successes along the way. From the President's Office to the classroom - virtual or in person - MSU Denver's community must invest and commit for the plan to succeed.