



Powering Transformation

The Campaign for Niagara University





“ The Power of Niagara is the total experience, it extends beyond academic excellence. Niagara taught me ethics and values through my interaction with others, and the importance of giving back. ”

Tracey Burkey, '86



Mission, Learning, Service: The Power of Niagara

For more than 150 years, Niagara University has educated students in the Vincentian tradition. Inspired by St. Vincent de Paul, the universal patron of charitable works, it is a mission that prepares our graduates for lives and careers that are both successful and fulfilling. Lives of faith. Lives of service. Lives that make a difference. Niagara students step onto campus filled with anticipation and optimism. They leave filled with real-world skills and a sense of purpose – determined to make our world a better place. Their dedication and commitment are a true reflection of their Vincentian education.

Our alumni, more than 36,000 strong, carry forward the mission of our university in virtually every profession, from education to business, healthcare to hospitality, and social services to ministry. They have served in the armed forces and in the Peace Corps. Niagara graduates bring educational tools and financial assistance to developing countries. They forge new paths in treating premature and sick infants. They help empower young people in under-served communities to become the next generation of leaders. They rebuild neighborhoods devastated by natural disasters.

Niagara University alumni make giving back the cornerstone of their careers and of their time on earth. A Niagara education is not merely an entry point for professional success or an engine for social mobility. It is the foundation for a life dedicated to making the world a better place.

After an extensive strategic planning process, and in consultation with many of the university's key stakeholders, Niagara is embarking on this major philanthropic campaign to ensure the Niagara mission is continued; and ultimately, that the university realizes its full potential. For our student athletes, that potential is fulfilled through a heightened level of competition, academics, service, teamwork, and community, and the opportunity to develop lifelong career skills by instilling **CONFIDENCE, CLARITY of direction, and a heightened sense of PURPOSE.**





“ Faculty members tailored their instruction to my needs and were always available — a personal touch that is easily lost at a larger university. ”

Joshua J. Prieur, '08, M.S.Ed. '10



Envisioning the Future

Beginning with the adoption of a new strategic plan, and now with the kickoff of this comprehensive fundraising campaign, we set a vision for the next generation of Niagara graduates that aligns with our 2018-2025 Strategic Plan, “What Must Be Done.”

The strategic plan affirms our core strengths and positions the university to build on these strengths, while continuing to anticipate and respond to challenges. The plan focuses on six key strategic objectives.

- Objective I: Academic Excellence
- Objective II: Transforming the Student Experience
- Objective III: Collaborative Focus to Build Civic Engagement
- Objective IV: Graduating Global Citizens
- Objective V: Niagara University in Ontario
- Objective VI: Strengthen and Sustain Our Fiscal Future

Objective I: Academic Excellence

Elevate academic excellence and reputation through student-centered, collaborative, experiential and integrative approaches to learning in preparation for 21st century careers.

Transformational education that integrates the liberal arts and professional studies into careers of the 21st century will lead to successful outcomes for graduates, while building the academic profile and reputation of the university. Academic excellence will be defined by the success of our students and by our core strengths in programs and graduate outcomes.

Investments in faculty, students and the learning environment will build from our core of liberal arts and professional studies. Actions include: revising general education (deep integration with mission and the liberal arts), endow departments and faculty positions, advancing strategies to intentionally increase graduation rates and elevating programs that have distinctive value and scale in the marketplace. These will result in increased retention and graduation rates, improved graduate outcomes and the ability to differentiate tuition across the university.

The university is committed to investing in faculty and students by creating an environment that stimulates cutting-edge and impactful learning while nurturing new ideas and innovation. Our investment extends beyond the classroom to offering internships for critical spirituality-based experiences, opportunities for student-faculty research, collaboration and excellence in career development and placement.



Objective II: Transforming the Student Experience

Cultivate a culture that fosters excellence in all our experiences, including development of athletics, the campus, residential life, experiential learning, support services and technologies.

The engagement of our students is the connective tissue that promotes their academic, personal, social and spiritual development. This engagement begins with student recruitment and enrollment, strengthens through their years on campus and continues as our graduates become highly engaged alumni.

We will strengthen our connection with students through increased targeted mentoring, advising, experiential learning, transformative student life experiences and professional support. The Niagara experience includes fully developing our students' academic, personal, social and spiritual lives. The close collaboration and lifelong connections made among students, faculty and staff, coupled with the advancements we are making to campus facilities, build retention and foster excellence that transcends the experience of students. Core to the student experience at Niagara University is the unique fact that the campus administration and faculty know our students by name.

Expanding experiences on campus and connecting to professional networks, our students will interact in new and inventive ways with the university's 36,000-plus alumni around the world. The investment in facilities, resources, and technology, like our living-learning communities and recreation programs at the Kiernan Center, focuses on the student experience to cultivate high levels of engagement on campus, thereby elevating the retention of students. Simultaneously, focusing on the importance of engaging students in campus life will lead to investments in housing, the library, and many academic and athletic facilities.

Objective III: Collaborative Focus to Build Civic Engagement

Advance impactful collaborations that focus on mission and civic engagement to benefit the Greater Niagara Falls Region and Niagara University.

Inspired by St. Vincent de Paul, we are called to look beyond the campus and use the strength of education to inspire positive change in the lives of others in our community and around the world. We will use teaching, service and research to drive mission-based learning and empower our greater community.

Building on the university's existing contributions in service and partnering with governmental and private investors seeking to return the City of Niagara Falls to the glorious destination it once was, the university is creating a deliberate and focused impact in the region. Action plans include: transforming service to lead to measurable impact; enhancing academic and co-curricular opportunities that focus on poverty, environmental justice and entrepreneurship; and replicating for the City of Niagara Falls the systemic and sustainable change that has begun to revitalize the City of Buffalo.

The contributions of Niagara's faculty and students will move beyond hours of service to foster a deeper understanding of civic engagement through intentional service aligned with their academic fields of study. This will produce replicable models for change in our community as well as a strong sense of purpose that will transcend into our students' careers.





Objective IV: Graduating Global Citizens

Enhance a diverse, inclusive and values-based learning environment designed to graduate global citizens and promote civil discourse.

Our graduates are entering a world that has never been more volatile, ambiguous and complex. Niagara's graduates must be prepared for a changing global landscape. Our university will formally expand to become a regional, binational and global resource.

Grounded in our Catholic and Vincentian mission, Niagara University is a living laboratory of global learning. By identifying and leveraging university and community resources, Niagara's Levesque Institute under the leadership of Executive Director, Patricia Wrobel focuses on engaging our students in three large engagements in our community - The Elimination of Poverty; The Development of Leaders; and Project Based Learning Models. Creating a diverse and international environment calls us to focus on campus climate, research and a curriculum that builds partnerships and opportunities for enrollment, exchange and strength in preparing global leaders. Actions include a university focus on excellence across race, equality and mission; full implementation of the Brennan Center for Language, Culture and Leadership; and extension of our footprint in strategic international regions as a pathway for Vincentian universities.

Objective V: Niagara University in Ontario

Establish Niagara University as the premier binational university within the Province of Ontario in Canada through mission-based academic programs, improved branding and the establishment of an Ontario presence.

St. Vincent de Paul called the community to follow Divine Providence, or God's spirit in life. After establishing a seminary in Western New York, Father John Joseph Lynch answered this call as the first Archbishop of Toronto and paved the way for binational identity.

Niagara has long embraced its binational identity as the only university in this region with authority to operate as a university in Ontario. In 2019, the university proudly opened a site in Vaughan, Ontario. This 12,000 square-foot facility provides a home to over 300 students who are pursuing bachelor's and master's degrees. As Vaughan is a growing and thriving community, Niagara University seeks to grow its presence and mission in the Greater Toronto Area.

The Niagara alumni in the province have developed careers across all professions and at all levels of leadership. As aligned with the recommendations of the Business Model Task Force, Niagara is positioned to build upon the success of the Vaughan site and expand its offerings in the province.

Actions to increase our binational footprint include: the expansion of Ministerial Consent to offer more programs in and around the Greater Toronto Area; physical and programmatic expansion of our Vaughan site to create a traditional campus footprint supported with scholarships, research and graduate assistantship opportunities for students in Canada; and strategic recruitment of undergraduate students for programs offered on our main campus.



Objective VI: Strengthen and Sustain Our Fiscal Future

Diversify revenue generation and strengthen fiscal sustainability.

The commitment to affordability as an independent university aligns with the landscape of concern for costs and value in higher education. Fiscal responsibility and efficiencies are complemented by the need to diversify revenue through increased philanthropic support from alumni, parents and friends. Additionally, we seek to create innovative community partnerships with organizations like National Grid, which promotes sustainability initiatives, and Help Me Grow, a project that leverages screening and referral services in the community. These partnerships support important initiatives and provide opportunities for innovation that build non-tuition revenue streams and establish brand affinity in new markets.

Actions include: a movement to self-sustainability among centers of the university; seeking funding for “academic excellence” (which will also build the university’s reputation), endowed positions and research; and establishing competitive areas of programming. Investment in innovation, augmenting grant and foundation initiatives as aligned with the strategic plan and increasing funding to leverage an independent university education for more families will ensure that Niagara achieves its full strategic vision.

“ In 1856, two rugged Vincentians, Bishop John Timon and Father John Joseph Lynch, an Irishman from County Monaghan, worked together to create the miracle we now call Niagara University. ”

Rev. James J. Maher, C.M.
Inauguration of Niagara University’s
26th president



Maintaining and Expanding Critical Infrastructure

Niagara students, faculty and staff take pride in our home on Monteagle Ridge in Lewiston, New York. Maintaining our historic buildings while making space and plans for new state of the art structures is a critical component of our future success. While capital improvements are part of our annual budget and supported in part by New York State, most construction on campus is directly tied to the philanthropic generosity of our alumni, friends, and benefactors.

In March of 2017, Niagara's Board of Trustees reaffirmed the university's commitment to invest in programs and facilities necessary to compete in NCAA Division I Athletics and in 2019, Niagara underwent a major capital planning effort resulting in a series of short- and long-term recommendations that will be essential to the University's future ability to draw students and deliver a top-quality education.



CAMPUS MASTER PLAN VISION FOR THE FUTURE

NEAR-TERM IMPROVEMENTS

- A Kiernan Center Renovation and Expansion
- B New Heritage Society Garden
- C New Suite-Style Residence Hall (Marian House Site)
- D New Power Center Library (Butler Building Site)
- E New Power Center Road - Campus Gateway Loop
- F O'Shea Hall Renovations
- G O'Shea Parking Lot Expansion (Timon Hall Site)
- H St. Vincent's Court Improvements
- I Vaughan, Ontario Bookstore / Café*

MID-TERM IMPROVEMENTS

- A Golisano Center Addition
- B Monteagle Trail Entrance Improvements
- C New Campus Gateway Monument
- D Seton Hall Renovations
- E South Parking Lot Expansion
- F University Drive Restriping
- G University Drive and Hyde Park Blvd. Improvements
- H Varsity Drive Replacement and Roundabout
- I Vaughan, Ontario Classroom Expansion*
- J Vincentian Drive Replacement

LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENTS

- A Gallagher Center Athletics Addition
- B Lynch Hall Renovations
- C New Apartment Building
- D New Athletics Field House
- E New Gallagher Center Loop Road
- F New 400M Outdoor Track
- G O'Donoughue Hall Renovations

*Vaughan, Ontario Campus Improvements (not shown)





The success of *Niagara's Powering Transformation: The Campaign for Niagara University* will ultimately determine the success of each of these growth initiatives. By making Niagara one of their top philanthropic priorities, supporters of the campaign will show the world the true potential of the Power of Niagara.



The Power of Niagara is in YOU!

Every year, Niagara University benefits from the tremendous generosity of countless alumni, friends, and donors. By making the university one of their philanthropic priorities, our supporters directly impact the lives of our students and the larger Niagara community every day.

Now, as we unfurl our vision for the future with this ambitious campaign, building on the university's strengths, we are launching Powering Transformation: The Campaign for Niagara University to realize our collective goals. We therefore seek the support of those who share our commitment to advancing social change through higher education.

Whether you choose to fund a scholarship, endow a faculty or coaching position, fund a building project or support a specific curriculum or technology, your generosity will allow us to continue building Niagara's legacy of providing academic excellence in the Vincentian tradition.

The university and its team of campaign volunteers and advancement professionals look forward to working with you to customize an opportunity that meets your desire to make an impactful gift to the campaign. With your generous support we will produce the next generation of mission-driven leaders who will transform the world.

With your help, we will bring to bear the full Power of Niagara.

“ The Power of Niagara symbolizes for me our faith, people, education and service. Our Catholic and Vincentian faith-vision inspires us. The goodness of our people sustains us. Our educational experience deepens and broadens us. Our service expresses our faith, people and education as a benefit for others and a blessing for those who do the service. ”

Rev. Vincent O'Malley, C.M.
Niagara University Chaplain







NIAGARA
UNIVERSITY