Campus Master Plan
FROM STRATEGIC PLAN TO CAMPUS VISION
2012
A university is defined by its people and its campus. The talented women and men of Lehigh University thrive in an environment that promotes creativity, intellectual curiosity, and free discourse. We are the beneficiaries of a 150-year-old campus laid out to provide for, in the words of Lehigh founder Asa Packer, the “intellectual and moral improvement” of students. Our surroundings encourage and facilitate interaction between students, faculty, staff, alumni, and visitors. Our historic campus buildings and the shaded paths between them are inspiring places to walk, to contemplate lessons from the past, and to conceive and develop ideas and innovation for the future.

As stewards and caretakers, we are obliged to continue to preserve, nurture and improve this beautiful place for generations to come. Our predecessors have done that by building the latest in laboratory facilities, arts venues, and athletic grounds, as well as by renovating our classic buildings to restore their architectural beauty and make current their capabilities. The constant and continuing evolution of Lehigh’s campus tells a story of the vision, hopes and dreams of the Lehigh community of each decade of our glorious history. As we embarked on and crafted this Campus Master Plan we purposefully built upon the extant and extraordinary foundation that is ours. Our goal is to ensure and secure the best and brightest future for Lehigh students and for Lehigh to lead in fashioning and shaping higher education in the 21st century.

You will see in the following pages the thoughtful work of many who have contributed to strategic thinking and planning, and who have a vision and high aspirations for the coming decades. The Campus Master Plan lays out a set of possibilities for the near, medium and long term, grounded in principles that will shape our ability to address new opportunities we cannot now imagine. We fully expect some elements of this Plan to be achieved in the immediate term and others to continue to evolve over the years to come. A hallmark of a great institution like Lehigh is the ability to change with the needs of society while maintaining core values and vision.

Central to this Plan is our goal to become internationally recognized for research excellence and distinctive student experiences. In this Plan, these synergistic aims can be seen in the emphasis on research spaces and student living and learning environments. Some of these goals involve expansion into the Mountaintop Campus where new approaches to higher education can be realized in dramatically different ways. Another feature of this Plan is the embrace of our neighborhood as an integral part of campus life. As we continue to integrate South Bethlehem and the Lehigh Valley into the fabric of our academic mission and campus experience, we will ensure new levels of vibrancy and mutual benefit for Lehigh and for our surrounding communities.

In June, Lehigh was the recipient of a gift of 755 acres of property nearby in Upper Saucon Township. This historic gift, the Stabler Campus, provides the University with tremendous new opportunities and benefits for the long term. While this Plan focuses on myriad opportunities for the Asa Packer, Mountaintop and Goodman Campuses, the Stabler Campus is also the subject of active planning by, and integration into, the University.

The pages of this Plan have been written to evoke and inspire visions of the unlimited possibilities for Lehigh in the years, decades and centuries ahead. We hope that you will join us in our efforts to make these dreams come true for the University we all love.

– Dr. Alice P. Gast
President of Lehigh University

– Brad Eric Scheler, Esq.
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
In 2009, Lehigh University unveiled its Strategic Plan, an aspirational document that called for the transformation of the University through the advancement of its intellectual footprint. The Strategic Plan is organized around four components:

- Addressing Grand Challenges and National Needs in Strategic Areas of Focus
- Investing in Faculty and Staff: A Strategic Expansion
- Providing a Best-in-Class Experience: Promoting Student Success through Core Competencies and Student Engagement
- Partnering in the Renaissance of the Local Community

The 2012 Campus Master Plan is inspired by, and founded on, the vision described in the Strategic Plan. The Campus Master Plan describes the University’s physical footprint as a manifestation of its expanding intellectual footprint. It supports the key goals of the Strategic Plan by proposing ways in which the facilities and grounds of the campus can accommodate the needs of an expanding faculty and the increasingly interdisciplinary work occurring in both teaching and research. The Campus Master Plan recommendations also aim to enhance the student experience, in both formal and informal learning environments. Finally, the Plan recognizes the University’s role as a key partner in the revitalization of South Bethlehem, proposing strategies that provide mutual benefits for both campus and community in the context of the ongoing transformation of the Lehigh Valley region.
The Campus Master Plan provides a comprehensive framework for University decisions about capital investments, development initiatives, and campus improvements. This framework establishes core principles and concepts while remaining flexible to accommodate changing academic needs and economic conditions over the life of the Campus Master Plan. While the plan is intended to represent an implementation period of approximately ten years, it is tied to the development of key strategic initiatives and therefore may be realized over a shorter or longer period based on evolving priorities.

The Plan is structured around the four key GOALS supporting the Strategic Plan. To demonstrate how these goals can be translated into physical planning concepts, the Plan proposes WIDER STRATEGIES and CATALYSTS that align with each goal. Wider strategies establish an overall rationale and pattern for development in support of a goal, and catalysts are illustrations of how the goal might be achieved through a project that leverages development to generate wider benefits for Lehigh’s three campuses and for South Bethlehem.

Each catalyst relates to a goal in the Campus Master Plan and illustrates a physical manifestation of the concept. In some cases, the location and program of the catalysts are known, and in other cases they are not. The Campus Master Plan also provides an EXEMPLAR project for each catalyst. The exemplars illustrate how goals can be achieved on campus by creating the physical spaces needed for the pursuit of innovation, collaboration, community interaction, and student life. The Campus Master Plan identifies five Catalysts, paired with five exemplars, as shown in the map to the right.

The Strategies and Catalysts form the heart of the Campus Master Plan and support key strategic initiatives in academics, research, and student life. Development cannot occur, however, without improvements to the infrastructure systems and campus environments that support growth. While not directly serving academic needs, these critical CONNECTIONS enable development by meeting increasing demands for services, parking, and transportation. A coordinated approach to parking and transportation will reduce inefficiencies and allow the University to fully utilize its resources while improving connections and increasing access across all three campuses and into South Bethlehem. At the same time, improved circulation pathways and enhanced green spaces will support the tradition of an intimate, walkable residential campus fostering informal interaction and close collaboration.
Goal: Facilitating Interdisciplinary Research and Teaching
- Interdisciplinary Academics Catalyst
- New Horizons Catalyst

Goal: Inspiring Learning and Collaboration Outside the Classroom
- Campus Crossroads Catalyst

Goal: Participating in the Renaissance of South Bethlehem
- Revitalizing the Existing Housing Fabric
- Mixed-Use Development
- Participation in the Neighborhood Improvement District (NID)
- South Bethlehem Catalyst

Goal: Expanding the Student Living and Learning Environment
- Living and Learning Catalyst

Connections
- Pedestrian Experience and Car-Free Zone
- Transportation: Shuttles
- Transportation: Parking
- Landscape
Campus Master Plan Goals

The enlarged site plan below depicts greater detail the Campus Master Plan initiatives for the Asa Packer and Mountaintop Campuses. The overarching Goals of the Campus Master Plan support key components of the University’s Strategy Plan and allow for project adaptability and flexibility as the needs of the University evolve over the next ten years:

- Goal: Facilitating Interdisciplinary Research and Teaching
- Goal: Inspiring Learning and Collaboration Outside the Classroom
- Goal: Participating in the Renaissance of South Bethlehem
- Goal: Expanding the Student Living and Learning Environment

The Campus Master Plan supports and complements the University’s Strategic Plan and allows for collaborative development. The Campus Master Plan initiatives, which are guided by the University’s Strategic Plan, will enable the University to achieve its mission and goals.

Guiding Principles

- Preserve Lehigh’s exceptional architectural character and park-like setting as the three campuses evolve.
- Make optimal use of existing resources and strategic use of new development.
- Create spaces to foster campus community and interdisciplinary interaction.
- Improve research space in a manner that enriches the holistic experience for graduate and undergraduate students.
- Plan and build in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- Leverage the presence of the University to better integrate the campus and South Bethlehem.
- Improve access and walkability among and within the three campuses.

Creating Connections

Building on the University’s legacy of improvements to the landscape and path networks on the Asa Packer Campus, the Campus Master Plan preserves the walking experience by expanding the zones in which walking is encouraged, and driving and parking are secondary. In some cases, not allowed. Areas which transform roadsides and prioritize pedestrian use will be utilized for the campus-wide green infrastructure network and an improved shuttle system. To accommodate potential future growth and the development of sites that are now parking lots, the Campus Master Plan also describes a parking strategy to accommodate demand in a way that is climate-resilient and sustainable. In tandem with catalyst projects, a series of landscape recommendations seek to create comfortably and lively open spaces, safe and walkable routes around the campuses, welcoming edges where the campus meets community, and practices that embrace the natural ecology of South Mountain.

Interdisciplinary Academics Catalyst

The Interdisciplinary Academics Catalyst demonstrates how renovations to historically important and centrally located buildings in the academic core of the Asa Packer Campus can create an academic neighborhood hub for interdisciplinary activity. Chandler-Ullmann Hall serves as the exemplar for the catalyst, showing how adaptive reuse and the creation of academically focused indoor and outdoor gathering spaces can create a neighborhood from disparate facilities in a key part of the historic campus.

South Bethlehem Catalyst

The South Bethlehem Catalyst demonstrates how participation by the University can transform both campus and community. The adaptive reuse of the Lehigh-owned Service Building serves as the exemplar for the catalyst, and describes a space for academic use and community interaction, bringing activity and engagement to the commercial center of South Bethlehem.

Mountaintop Campus

The Mountaintop Campus serves as the exemplar for the catalyst and depicts this area’s evolution from corporate park to a Lehigh campus experience, and access to the adaptive reuse of Buildings A and C for innovation teaching and research facilities.