

Albion College is at a defining moment in its 173-year history. Albion graduates will enter a highly competitive global economy and must be prepared to navigate through turbulent times. Despite decades of success, Albion College cannot continue with the status quo. We are faced with significant challenges at every level, from the local to the international. Given these challenges, we recognize the need for a transformative approach to an Albion education.

“Albion 2015” is a living, breathing plan that is both attentive and responsive to environmental changes. As we flesh out the plan in the coming months, we are envisioning a future in which our graduates must address complex and multifaceted social, political, environmental, and economic problems. They must become “skilled architects of societal change.”

The key features of our plan include:

- **A future-oriented perspective.** We are anticipating what the world might look like in 2015 and intend to prepare our students for this world through changes in the curriculum, activities, and experiences.
- **Multiple strategic partnerships.** We are actively seeking partners in the private and public sectors to broaden the experiences of our students; to expand our intellectual, financial, and leadership capital; and to enhance our national visibility and reputation.
- **The transformation of critical thought to action.** As a liberal arts institution, we will continue to hone our students’ analytic, communication, and problem-solving skills, but, even more importantly, we will provide our students with increased opportunities to apply the knowledge and skills they have gained, and to demonstrate—before they graduate—that a liberal arts education has the power to change society for the better.

As we go forward, we will build upon our strengths as a liberal arts college. We will identify, preserve, and enhance those key pillars of our past and present, such as outstanding scholars, teachers, caring and able staff, dynamic faculty-student interactions, opportunities for undergraduate research and creative endeavors, and an all-encompassing educational experience. These pillars have served our students well and will continue to do so in the future.

In setting forth “Albion 2015,” the College embarks on an exciting and sometimes risky journey. As you read through the accompanying plan, we encourage you to share your ideas and hopes for Albion’s future. The involvement and support of the entire Albion family will ensure our success in making this plan a reality.

Donna Randall
President

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VISION

Albion College is nationally recognized for its academic excellence in the liberal arts tradition, a learning-centered commitment, and a future-oriented perspective. The College is a leader in preparing students to anticipate, solve, and prevent problems in order to improve the human and global condition. The College immerses students in the creation and processing of knowledge, and graduates skilled architects of societal change, active citizens, and future leaders.

MISSION

Albion College is an undergraduate, liberal arts institution committed to academic excellence. We are learning-centered and recognize that valuable learning takes place in and outside the classroom, on and off campus. We prepare students to translate critical thought into action.

VALUES

As a measure of Albion College’s commitment to our students, our public, and the liberal arts tradition, the vision espouses deeply-embedded core values.

WE VALUE:

- An intellectually challenging and diverse community of learners, teachers, scholars, and thinkers who share and promote a passion for learning and innovation in teaching and scholarship;
- Our passionate, loyal, and committed alumni;
- Diversity as an expression and affirmation of the human condition and as a source of strength and celebration for all members of the community;
- Fairness, justice, ethical development, and personal responsibility;
- Small classes and personal attention in a residential undergraduate environment where the daily interaction of faculty, staff, and students fosters critical thinking, advances knowledge through collaborative scholarship, respects academic freedom, and inspires lifelong learning;
- Disciplinary and interdisciplinary study;
- Intellectual, personal, social, ethical, and spiritual development within our local and global communities that prepares our graduates for productive lives and careers; a breadth and depth of opportunities and experiences; and, the drive to help each other make meaningful and educated contributions to our world;
- Effective stewardship of all our resources—physical, intellectual, environmental, human, and financial; we strive to make decisions that are fiscally responsible;
- Opportunities for collegiality based on shared interests for the common good that lead to rich friendships among faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the greater Albion community.



STRATEGIC THEMES AND INITIATIVES

Four strategic themes are set forth in support of Albion’s vision. These themes function as coordinates to guide Albion College’s future planning efforts. The initiatives—selected to realize the vision and reinforce the themes—anticipate future societal needs, offer maximum impact to advance the vision, and allow Albion to achieve distinctiveness.

THEME 1. Albion College students master an academically excellent, future-oriented, interdisciplinary, distinctive, and challenging curriculum to enhance creative thought and problem-solving skills. Curricular and co-curricular learning experiences and opportunities are carefully selected, integrated, and intentionally sequenced.

Initiative 1. Revisit the curriculum, explore outcomes-based learning that is distinctive, creative, and interdisciplinary, and explore a four-year developmental approach to teach students to understand and resolve complex problems.

Initiative 2. Create a Center for Teaching and Learning that will serve as a focal point on campus for innovative, transformative, and creative thinking across the curriculum. The center will stimulate, design, and coordinate professional development opportunities for faculty, staff, and students, and it will serve as a resource center.



Initiative 3. Create an innovation fund. This endowed fund will be a sustainable source of support for the continuous renewal of curriculum and pedagogy. The fund will provide ongoing incentives for faculty and staff to: (a) engage in forward thinking in regard to scholarship, creative activity, and research; (b) continuously revise the curriculum; (c) enhance, expand, and integrate curricular and co-curricular learning experiences and opportunities; and (d) learn, employ, and master new pedagogies. Funds will be awarded through a competitive process and will be administered by a committee with established guidelines.

Initiative 4. Redesign the library to create space for informal interaction, individual study, and reflection, as well as learning, skill development, and knowledge access, creation, and management. This learning commons will be the intellectual heart of campus, serving faculty, staff, and students across all disciplines.

THEME 2. Albion College graduates are engaged, courageous, and responsible citizens prepared to lead in a diverse and global society.

Initiative 1. Create a program that will be a focal point for international and domestic diversity initiatives and spiritual life initiatives. The program will be unique in the nation for its comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary focus. The program will champion, promote, integrate, and coordinate a breadth of curricular and co-curricular initiatives, such as a global learning center, a spiritual life center, and a residential international house.

Initiative 2. Explore international and domestic “study away” experiences and opportunities (e.g., service-learning, internships) that enhance students’ ability to understand and solve global problems.

Initiative 3. Explore the establishment of international partnerships that result in mutually beneficial exchanges.

Initiative 4. Increase the diversity of students, staff, and faculty on campus, including geographic (national and international), spiritual, racial/ethnic, socio-economic, political, and cultural differences.



THEME 3. Albion College graduates are good stewards of the planet.

Initiative 1. Develop an ethos of sustainability at Albion College through a broad-based educational plan, a commitment from college leadership, and participation of the entire college community.

Initiative 2. Develop an operational plan that models best practices for a sustainable residential campus.



THEME 4: Albion College reflects resilience and vibrancy across multiple levels. We seek to enhance the person (mind, body, and spirit), our physical structures (living and learning facilities), and our community (economic and educational revitalization).

Initiative 1. Improve campus facilities to enhance the quality of the educational environment.

Initiative 2. Enhance our wellness (health, fitness, and recreation), athletic (varsity and junior varsity), club sports, and intramural programs to provide students, staff, faculty, and community members with enriching and rewarding opportunities and experiences.

Initiative 3. Enhance our fine and performing arts programs to provide students, staff, faculty, and community members with enriching and rewarding opportunities and experiences.

Initiative 4. Offer a competitive compensation package to faculty and staff to recruit and retain a highly-motivated, positive, and talented workforce.

Initiative 5. Develop mutually-beneficial partnerships with the city to enhance the quality of life for students, staff, faculty, and community residents.



ALBION 2015
OUR STRATEGIC PLAN