



The following updates illustrate progress since September on priorities outlined in the strategic plan, *St. Thomas 2025*.

Lead in STEAM Education

Don Weinkauf, Dean of the School of Engineering, will represent St. Thomas as a member ~~month. The Governor's trip will highlight our state's medical and bio-~~ technology industry opportunities. At the same time, First Lady Gwen Walz is leading a higher education delegation. Don will represent us well in both of these sector visits and will also help host a St. Thomas alumni gathering in London at the U.S. Embassy during the trip.

Grow the Morrison Family College of Health

After very successful visits from reviewers and intense preparation work, we expect final approval from the Higher Learning Commission for our two pre-licensure nursing programs, Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN), in mid-November. Successfully completing this last regulatory step means we can begin student recruitment in earnest and advertise our School of Nursing with the broader community in anticipation of our fall 2022 opening.

Our schools and colleges continue to intentionally increase federal funding activity. The School of Social Work and the School of Education jointly received a \$1.2 million grant in September from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in the U. S. Department of Education to fund scholarships for students in social work and education. The grant will help us further embed trauma-informed care into our curriculum, helping teach how to care for young children with intensive needs, including those from refugee and immigrant backgrounds.

Foster Belonging and Dismantle Racism

The Racial Justice Initiative received funding from the Pohlad Family Foundation to work with Twin Cities Public Television to produce a documentary about the history of policing

in Minneapolis. Fox 9 News recently interviewed Dr. Yohuru William about the subject, providing a preview of the documentary.

Dr. Williams continues to keynote many key engagements and garner local and national media appearances. In early October, he keynoted the University of Scranton Ignatian Values lecture series for all new students at the University of Scranton, and recently spoke with CNN News on legislation related to voting rights.

Promote and Leverage Our Comprehensive Academic Excellence

previous years. The overall positive association with St. Thomas has gone up, while cost as a top-of-mind association with St. Thomas continues to decline. This uptick in association with value was reinforced when we made the US News list on Best Value Colleges. St. Thomas was also ranked recently by the online publication Stacker in its list of the 50 Best Colleges in Big Cities for 2021. A Chicago Tribune article highlighted our, “Main campus along an avenue of Victorian homes in St. Paul but also a location in downtown Minneapolis. Students can develop professional ties to the community and explore job possibilities at the region’s corporations and businesses, especially from the schools located in Minneapolis: the Opus College of Business, School of Law, School of Education and the Dougherty Family College, which offers two-year associate degrees.” Stacker looked at the best colleges in big U.S. cities, using 2021 Niche rankings that considered schools based on their academics, admissions, financial value, and student life.

Expand Our Pipeline of Students

For the first time, we are producing enrollment advertisements in Somali, Spanish and Hmong (with an ad featuring the voice of our own MayKao Hang, VP and Dean of the Morrison Family College of Health). We are also doing a media buy with Univision for the first time.

Expanding our pipeline is the top priority of Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. Eddy Rojas. He is working with an enrollment consultant from Northeastern University with experience in broadening enrollment to a national scope. He will work with our enrollment management, marketing, insights and communication, and information technology service teams to assess our enrollment strategy and provide guidance on increasing our geographic reach.

Lean Into our Catholic Mission

The School of Law launched the Initiative on Restorative Justice and Healing that will

