

## Chancellor's Letter for the Magazine

Dear UMass Dartmouth community,

In October, I initiated "Inventing Our Future: Vision 2025," a series of more than 30 internal and external conversations held over 45 days. I met with faculty, staff, students, alumni, business and community leaders, and legislators, and distributed a survey as well so as many people as possible could provide their ideas for the optimum future of UMass Dartmouth. In December, I held a Town Hall meeting to present my initial findings.

This process has enabled me to identify themes that will inform us as we develop a strategic plan to carry us through 2025. Over the course of the spring semester, I will articulate and refine those themes, and I will introduce a shared ambition for our future at my Inauguration Installation Ceremony on April 20, 2018.

To take advantage of some of the opportunities that I see for UMass Dartmouth, it is essential that we:

- Proudly explain exactly how UMass Dartmouth provides a private college educational experience and public university value.
- Let the world know that our faculty hold degrees from the finest institutions in the world, and that they choose to teach and do their research here with UMass Dartmouth undergraduate and graduate students.
- Highlight outcomes and the success of our students who go to the best graduate schools – Yale, Brown, Duke, and Michigan, to name a few; and land jobs at prestigious companies like PWC, EMC, ESPN, Google, and State Street.
- Implement our comprehensive Campus Master Plan, which honors the unique legacy of renowned architect Paul Rudolph, and accommodates 21<sup>st</sup> century living and learning practices so that our students will have the best possible experience and preparation for the jobs of the future.

This institution is grounded in a proud history, and our future is bright. We are poised for greater visibility on the national stage. As we embark on this journey together, we must continue to evolve, and even disrupt the current higher education model to best prepare our students for a rapidly changing world.

I am delighted by the possibilities I see at UMass Dartmouth, and I know that as a community we are smarter and more creative than any individual. Together, we will propel our great institution forward.

Best regards,

Robert E. Johnson, Ph.D.

Chancellor