THE GENIUS IS IN THE DOING.
We have a bold vision for higher education. We see sweeping changes that will have an enormous impact on our students, our community and our world. We will innovate around our strengths in teaching, learning and discovery. We will accelerate the ways research can be used to address society’s most vexing problems.

We call this vision DU IMPACT 2025. And it’s the direct result of thousands of interviews with students, faculty, friends, community partners, and yes, even our critics, led by Chancellor Rebecca Chopp, we spent 18 months listening, learning, collaborating and crafting the perfect strategic plan for our time and our University.

The Board of Trustees adopted the plan in January 2016. You can read the full plan at du.edu/impact.
Not since the Industrial Revolution has higher education confronted the breadth of challenges we face today.

In the midst of these challenges, DU sees opportunities. Excellence and imagination are core to our DNA. Our faculty engage in basic research that adds to the body of human knowledge and fuels future discovery. We also have a long history of research that addresses immediate needs and problems. We have a proud commitment to teaching—distinctive among research universities like ours. Our professional schools define and redefine the professions.

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends, three-quarters of our campus has been renovated or newly built in the past 20 years. We began increasing access and diversifying our student body—drawing from all 50 states and six continents. During the recent economic downturn, unlike many of our peers, DU expanded our world-class faculty. And now it’s time to take the next step.

DU IMPACT 2025 is the right plan, at the right time, in the right place.

Our combination of liberal arts, graduate and professional education makes DU the perfect model to create that higher impact we seek. We will be a crossroads of ideas, a marketplace for innovation and a hub for connections, all dedicated to the public good.

We will inspire creativity like never before. Artists, psychologists, educators and lawyers will work side by side with scientists, engineers, and business and civic leaders. What their research and scholarship uncover today will underpin the practical solutions for tomorrow.

And because this is a digital and connected world, what we do here will have a powerful impact across the globe. It’s an incredibly exciting time. We can’t wait to get started.
An inventive spirit guides us, allowing us to accomplish great things.
The University of Denver is unique. A strong sense of place pervades our values, culture, people and purpose. The Rocky Mountain West landscape defines this place as aspirational, open and rugged. The booming region around Denver and this awe-inspiring geography draw hard-working, energetic individuals who are resilient, innovative and want to make a difference.

The Denver metro area is evolving into a more global, diverse center that is quite different from other American cities. As one of the fastest-growing urban landscapes in America, the region’s economy combines start-ups and multinational companies and has redefined professions in areas such as law, finance, policy, social work, health care and education. The cultural scene is eclectic and booming with arts, athletics and more being mixed together in a new 21st-century international metropolis.

Like the Rocky Mountains to our west, Denver and DU are open to all who have the drive to reach the summit.
FOR OUR STUDENTS

We promise robust intellectual engagement through learning, scholarship and practice.

We promise a holistic education, including personal navigation skills for life and work.

We promise creative collaboration and ethical leadership development.

We promise deep, meaningful engagement in a diverse community.

We promise lifelong connectedness for personal and career achievement.
Our students have always been bold and imaginative. This new plan ignites that spirit and launches it to even greater heights. The engagement between our faculty and students has long been our greatest strength. But we have to be even better. With a new, rigorous and holistic approach to higher education, we can ensure that Denver and the Rocky Mountain West will have the community leaders and world makers who will address and solve local and global problems.

It's essential that we attract the best students. We are committed to leveling the playing field and providing opportunities for all students to thrive at DU. We must prepare all our students to excel in the 21st century. Career trajectories can no longer be mapped as they once were. So education has to prepare them not just for their first careers but also for jobs not yet created.

Employers and communities are desperate for graduates who have emotional intelligence, can work collaboratively, can innovate, can lead diverse teams and can navigate complexity. Our students will track their learning by building dynamic portfolios and participating in a 360-degree mentoring system. They will leverage the DU global network for lifelong achievement.

The only way future leaders will solve tomorrow’s problems is with tomorrow’s thinking.
Our students have always made the grade. Now they’re making headlines.

Growing up on the Taos Pueblo reservation in New Mexico, Autumn Murphy didn’t hear much about higher education. And there were few college-prep opportunities. But Autumn wants to change that. As a recipient of DU’s full-tuition Native American Community Scholarship, she’s helping Native American students in middle school and high school develop a strong background in science and technology. So when it’s their turn, they will write even more stories.
FOR OUR COMMUNITY

We pledge to tackle the grand challenges of the Rocky Mountain West, such as water quality, land use, hunger, homelessness and shortage of affordable housing.

We pledge to innovate with business, community and educational partners to address our region’s needs with scale and efficiency.

We pledge to promote well-being for underserved populations, including the young, the aging and economically disadvantaged and rural populations, through interdisciplinary research and outreach.

We pledge to enhance sustainable practices, support urban green-space initiatives, explore transportation alternatives and continue to reduce our carbon footprint.
LET’S BLUR THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY.

There’s a place where knowledge meets character and responsibility. And it’s called DU.

We are proud of the bond we’ve forged with Denver and the Rocky Mountain West. And rightly so.

When you look at our skyline, with DU’s graceful buildings and enduring architecture silhouetted against the Front Range, you appreciate the role of the University in our city.

These spaces and halls, rinks and sports fields, classrooms, labs and studios are here to serve as the catalyst that changes the lives of our community members—especially our students.

In the Robert and Judi Newman Center for the Performing Arts, we host hundreds of thousands of guests each year for music and dance performances.

We intend to expand our commitment so the lines between our campus and our community become so blurred, you’ll be hard-pressed to tell where one ends and the other begins.
Today you’ll find our students doing educational residencies in K-12 schools throughout the Denver area. Music students provide private lessons for Denver area children. And our law, psychology and social work students serve in community clinics.

The Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging brings together key strengths from around campus and the region to address growing needs here in Denver and throughout the nation.

Our initiative for innovation, entrepreneurship and technology—known as Project X-ITE—will serve as an incubator for partnerships with industry, nonprofits and civic groups throughout the West. We provide an economic impact in the region of nearly $1 billion per year. Now we want to work with neighbors to establish a vibrant DU District that connects our campus and the surrounding neighborhood, promotes a vibrant local economy and provides cultural and educational benefits to all.

Our Rocky Mountain Grand Challenges initiative will create a critical mass of courses dedicated to Denver’s toughest problems, including cybersecurity, transportation, mental health and the shortage of clean water.

Our engagement and energy—combined with our research, scholarship and teaching—will fuel social change and economic development based on our optimism that anything is possible.

And what we do locally will change the world.

Community members of all ages rally around DU’s student-athletes. Every year, more than 181,000 fans stream into Barton Lacrosse Stadium and Magness Arena. And with 190,000 visits each year, the Coors Fitness Center helps keep our friends and neighbors healthy and strong.

The gleaming gold Williams Tower is a visible reminder of the integrity, passion and pride that DU’s world-class Division I athletics programs bring to our neighborhood, our city and our state.

Our scholar-athletes have earned 31 national championships in hockey, skiing, lacrosse and gymnastics. But that’s not all. They contribute 1,200 hours of community service each year and are among our highest-achieving students on campus.

The Daniel L. Ritchie Center for Sports and Wellness and its Magness Arena are proudly part of the DU campus and embody our mission to serve the Denver and Colorado community as “the place” for people to gather to discuss, debate, learn, and thrive.

From children’s athletics camps with our coaches to the first 2012 presidential debate, educational forums, national conventions, and over 30 high school graduations annually, the building—like DU—is truly dedicated to the public good.
We will promote research and scholarship that create the future of science, arts, humanities, social sciences and the professions.

We will create knowledge that serves the public good and changes the world for the better.

We will support career and professional achievement by connecting students and alumni with an enhanced global DU network.

We will create meaningful partnerships that match societal needs with DU’s learning goals.

We will amplify DU’s impact around the world, emboldening our global ambassadors.
We are all residents of an ever-changing digital and connected world. And we all share a passion for developing the greater good. By drawing on our intellectual capital, our practical knowledge, our open minds and an interdisciplinary faculty, DU will research and address the world’s pressing problems.

In fact, we’ve already started.

Have no doubt, what we do here today will change the world.
Never underestimate the power of ideas.

We graduate students with the skills, knowledge and expertise to become global leaders in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Three-quarters of our undergraduate students study abroad, and we have a comprehensive way of preparing them for their journey and giving them ways to reflect on what they learned. And DU is one of the top-serving institutions for the Peace Corps.

Our faculty showcase their genius by doing. They build labs to improve the understanding, treatment and prevention of cardiovascular diseases. They use data to show that nonviolent campaigns are twice as likely to succeed as violent ones. They contribute to the national discourse through local and national media, educating the broader public on historical and current events. They consult with major corporations around the world and serve as advisers on topics that range from international law to business ethics.

Our alumni lead corporations and nonprofits. They help families in Kenya affected by HIV/AIDS. They serve as ambassadors and civic leaders. They are leading artists, chefs and hoteliers.

By bringing together the best minds—not just from here, but from around the world—we can create a generator for ideas, an incubator for entrepreneurs and a launching pad for the greatest change.

Raised in Meru, Kenya, Karambu Ringera knows firsthand about the ravages of HIV/AIDS in Africa. But she is a perfect example of our philosophy that genius is in the doing. While working toward her PhD in human communications at DU, she created the Amani Home for orphaned and vulnerable children. Since graduating in 2008, she’s raised enough money to send 1,000 children to school. And she’s established a micro-lending program to help women in Africa become self-sufficient, better nourished and better prepared to fight the diseases that threaten to orphan 1.4 million children in Africa.
BRING US THE WORLD CHANGERS AND WORLD MAKERS.

Send us the students, faculty and business leaders with promise and purpose. The elected officials and the community volunteers with courage and conviction. Bring us everyone who dreams of making the world a better place.

And we will give you the next poet laureates, the next award-winning novelists, the next entrepreneurs and world leaders. We will give you the next flash of genius that will change forever the way we do things.

All we ask in return is that you give us your time, your ideas and your support. You can help make sure higher education has a higher impact. Please read the full plan at du.edu/impact and learn how you can be a part of this transformative vision.

And together we will reinvent the world.