



Office of the Vice President for Mission Integration

## University Identity Document

### MISSION

Niagara University educates its students and enriches their lives through programs and career preparation, informed by the Catholic and Vincentian traditions.

### ENABLING GOALS

As a university, Niagara prepares its students for positions of responsibility in the professions and in the broader society. Through teaching, research and service in programs of study at the baccalaureate and graduate levels, Niagara seeks to develop within its students a passion for learning.

The university's commitment to the Catholic faith provides perspective in the search for truth and meaning. Catholic doctrine and its moral code inspire respect for the God-given dignity of every person and all faith traditions. Students experience the vision and reality of a gospel-based, value-centered education.

As a Vincentian university, Niagara draws inspiration from St. Vincent de Paul, who organized his contemporaries to respond compassionately to people's basic needs. Continuing this tradition, Niagara seeks to inspire its students to serve all members of society, especially the poor and oppressed, in local communities and in the larger world.

Overall, through its curricular and extracurricular programs, Niagara University seeks to develop the whole person, mind, body, heart and soul, for the benefit of one's personal and professional life.

### VISION COMMITMENTS OF THE 2018-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

- Academic excellence founded in interdisciplinary approaches to learning; capitalizing on our strong tradition in liberal arts education and high quality, accredited professional programs.
- Social justice, a campus dedicated to diversity and awareness of the local and global environment, and educating students as citizens of the world.
- Mission-driven transformative leadership, fostering economic and social development with the community and its strategic partners.
- A culture of care for the whole person, and an organization strengthened by innovation and shared governance.
- An open campus environment through the use of cutting-edge technology, and improvements to facilities and outdoor spaces.

Inspired by these hallmarks, and convinced of the harmony of faith and reason, Niagara University cultivates virtues of intellect and character, encouraging people to study, listen, and engage the ideas of a variety of persons, cultures, and disciplines:

- ❖ Promoting a spirit of inquiry that looks to solving complex problems guided by strong faculty advisement that gives students confidence.
- ❖ Engaging the Catholic Intellectual Tradition coupled with career-related experiences are a lens to examine self and world: that gives clarity of direction.
- ❖ Preparing students for personal & professional success while committed to its Vincentian values, helping them gain a heightened sense of purpose.

As a Catholic University, we are guided by the academic ideals presented in the Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities *EcE*, including:

- a Christian inspiration not only of individuals but of the university community as such;
- a continuing reflection in light of the Catholic faith upon the growing treasury of human knowledge, to which we seek to contribute by our own research;
- fidelity to the Christian message as it comes to us through the Church; and
- an institutional commitment to the service of the people of God and of the human family in their pilgrimage to the transcendent goal which gives meaning to life.

The University's curriculum, policies and activities draw on the wisdom of the Church regarding ways to build a just society and live lives of holiness in the modern world. To that end, the University engages key themes of modern Catholic Social Teaching identified by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

- life and dignity of the human person;
- call to family, community, and participation;
- rights and responsibilities;
- option for the poor and vulnerable;
- the dignity of work and the rights of workers;
- solidarity; and
- care for God's creation.

As a sister to Adamson (Philippines), DePaul, and St. John's Universities, Niagara University is committed to academic and professional excellence. We strive to promote the common good and to assist individuals to lead lives of balance, generosity, and integrity. We reflect upon Gospel values as *taught by St. Vincent de Paul* and therefore take seriously:

- the primacy of God and the things of God;
- reverent listening for the varied ways in which God is revealed;
- the formation of community built on respect for individual persons, especially the marginalized, who are each regarded as Christ himself;
- the development of a profound awareness of the meaning of one's existence; and
- the exercise of good stewardship.

## **MOTTO**

*Ut Omnes Te Cognoscant* – That all may know Thee.

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