Boston College announces $1.6 billion strategic investment in faculty, academic programs and facilities

Strategic Plan calls for up to 100 new faculty, new academic centers, and $800 million in construction and renovation to elevate BC to highest echelon of premier national universities

Boston College will invest $1.6 billion in its future through a 10-year Strategic Plan that will add up to 100 additional faculty, create new academic centers and institutes, allocate $800 million for construction and renovation—including $300 million for academic facilities—and provide an increase in ongoing support of academic programs and initiatives by $435.5 million annually, the University announced Tuesday.

In its Strategic Plan, Boston College sets seven strategic directions that call for the University to become a national leader in liberal arts education and student formation, and to enhance its research initiatives in select natural sciences and in areas that address urgent societal problems. The plan also supports leadership initiatives in BC’s graduate and professional schools, expands the University’s international programs and partnerships, and commits Boston College to becoming the world’s leading Catholic university and theological center.

“We realize that we have set an ambitious agenda for ourselves,” said BC President William Leahy, SJ. “But Boston College has always strived to live up to its motto of ‘Ever to Excel,’ and as we approach in 2013 the 150th anniversary of the founding of Boston College, this plan will help us expand and university to become even greater.

This public announcement comes after a two-year self-study involving more than 200 BC faculty, administrators and students.

Specifically, the seven strategic directions will:

1. Commit Boston College to Becoming the Leader in Liberal Arts Education Among American Universities through the establishment of the Institute for Liberal Arts, which will support interdisciplinary teaching, research and programming, a Humanities Colloquium, to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue and further collaborative research among the humanities departments, and the Center for Undergraduate Advising.

2. Develop and Implement a Student Formation Program That Will Be a Contempo-

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4. Commit Targeted Resources to Natural Science Emphases That Will Establish Boston College as among the Leaders in Select Areas through the establishment of the Institute for Integrated Science, which will enhance interdisciplinary collaboration among physics, chemistry and biology faculty.

5. Build on the Strengths and Reputation of Boston College Professional Schools to Establish Leadership in Critical Professional Areas through the Watson Center for Leadership and Ethics in the Carroll School of Management; the Connell School of Nursing’s Nurse Leader Program; the Lynch School of Education’s Teachers for a New Era Program; the Global Practice Initiative of the Graduate School of Social Work, and the International Program in American Law at Boston College Law School, among other initiatives.

6. Become a Significant Intellectual and Cultural Crossroads by Leveraging BC’s International Resources and Partnerships and its Jesuit and Catholic Networks through the Society of International Fellows, the Center for Human Rights and International Justice, and increased support for the Office of International Programs.

7. Commit Boston College to Becoming the World’s Leading Catholic University and Theological Center through the creation of the School of Theology and Ministry, which will include Weston Jesuit School of Theology, the Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry and the online programs of the Church in the 21st Century Center, and the Institute for the Advancement of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.

To support the Strategic Plan, the University is proposing the construction of four new academic buildings, including the establishment of a new Institute for Integrated Sciences, new facilities for fine arts, a university center, a recreation complex and 610 additional beds of undergraduate housing, as well as new intercollegiate and intramural athletics fields and recreational facilities.

“BC students and faculty are at the forefront of this exciting strategic vision for the future of Boston College,” said Patrick Stokes, chairman of the Board of Trustees.

“The plan will enhance our academic strength and research capacity and advance our leadership in student formation and liberal arts education both nationally and internationally,” says Boston College Board of Trustees Chairman Patrick Stokes.

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Boston College has submitted its 10-year Institutional Master Plan Notification Form (IMPNF) to the Boston Redevelopment Authority that calls for $700 million in new construction and $100 million in campus renovation projects during the next decade.

The Institutional Master Plan features the construction of four new academic buildings, a university center, a recreation complex, 610 additional beds of undergraduate housing, a fine arts district, and new athletic fields and facilities. The plan will create 21st century classrooms and laboratories, replace a 47-year-old student center and a 35-year-old recreation complex, add much-needed playing fields and athletic facilities, and bring 610 students currently living in local neighborhoods into campus housing. In addition, the plan will help develop an integrated campus with linked quadrangles, pedestrian walkways and buildings in the tradition of BC's distinct English Collegiate Gothic architecture.

Boston College will provide the infrastructure to support the University's Strategic Plan, which was crafted from a two-year self-study involving more than 200 BC faculty, administrators and students. Developed by Sasaki Associates in conjunction with Boston College's administration, faculty and students, the Institutional Master Plan will enable the University to achieve the seven strategic directions identified in the Strategic Plan and to create the academic, curricular and residential facilities needed to help raise Boston College to the highest echelon among premier American universities.

Among its major components, the Institutional Master Plan proposes to:

- Construct four new academic buildings on the Middle Campus in Chestnut Hill, including: Stokes Commons, an 85,000 square-foot academic facility to be used as an interim student center and dining hall, a 125,000 square-foot academic facility for the humanities, a 75,000 square-foot facility to house the Graduate School of Social Work and the Cornell School of Nursing, and a 100,000 square-foot Institute for Integrated Sciences building, to support BC's burgeoning scientific research and teaching initiatives and to enhance collaboration among physics, chemistry and biology faculty.
- Build a 200,000 square-foot student recreation complex with a fitness center, pool, jogging track, basketball courts and multi-purpose rooms on St. Thomas More Drive.
- Add a net total of 610 beds of undergraduate student housing that will increase the total of BC students living on campus to more than 90%, exceeding all other colleges or universities in Boston. The addition of 500 beds on the Brighton Campus, 490 beds of undergraduate student housing that will increase the total of BC students living on campus to more than 90%.
on Shea Field, 420 beds on the current More Hall site and 175 beds on Lower Campus, will enable the replacement of outdated Edmonds Hall and several modular housing units.  

- Develop the Brighton Athletics Center, which will include a 1,500-seat baseball and 500-seat softball field, as well as a multi-purpose field for intramural sports, and a field house for track and tennis on the Brighton Campus.  
- Build a fine arts district on the Brighton Campus that will include the relocated McMullen Museum of Art, an auditorium and academic space.  
- Build Jesuit housing on Foster Street in Brighton for Jesuit faculty and graduate students from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology, which re-affiliates with Boston College in 2008.  
- Raze McElroy Commons on the Middle Campus in Chestnut Hill and create a new campus quadrangle and pedestrian walkway that will link with other quadrangles connecting the Upper, Middle and Lower Campuses.  
- Add 350 parking spaces to the Beacon Street Garage and build a 500-space parking facility to serve the Brighton Campus.  
- Develop the former Cardinal’s Residence on the Brighton Campus into a Conference Center for Boston College.  
- Develop St. William’s Hall on the Brighton Campus into the new School of Theology and Ministry.  
- Utilize the remaining properties acquired from the Archdiocese of Boston as administrative offices.  

The IMPNF, which has been presented to the Allston-Brighton/Boston College Master Plan Task Force and the BRA, will now be reviewed by Boston officials.  

The University’s Strategic Plan, which calls for hiring up to 100 new faculty and creating more than a dozen new centers
and institutes, will help position Boston College to become a national leader in liberal arts education and student formation among American universities and the world’s leading Catholic university and theological center, said BC President William P. Leahy, SJ. “We are announcing our Strategic and Master Plans with the goal of creating the finest campus facilities for our students and faculty, while also committing ourselves to becoming a national leader in liberal arts education and student formation, and the world’s leading Catholic university and theological center,” said Father Leahy. “The new facilities will support the Strategic Plan and help us to achieve our goals.”

Patrick Keating, BC’s Executive Vice President, added, “This investment in BC’s future through the Institutional Master Plan will enhance our academic resources, beautify the BC campus and surrounding area, provide construction jobs and expanded economic benefits for Boston and Newton, and will help bring Boston College to even greater heights. We view this as a win-win situation for Boston College and its host communities.”

Said Vice President for Governmental and Community Affairs Thomas Keady, “We want to thank the Allston-Brighton/Boston College Master Plan Task Force for working with us in helping to shape this Institutional Master Plan. We appreciate the time and consideration they have given to this important endeavor over the past two years.”