

## **JCU MISSION STATEMENT (FULL)**

**1.** John Carroll University, founded in 1886, is a private, coeducational, Catholic, and Jesuit university. It provides programs in the liberal arts, sciences, education, and business at the undergraduate level, and in selected areas at the master's level. The University also offers its facilities and personnel to the Greater Cleveland community.

**2.** As a university, John Carroll is committed to the transmission and enrichment of the treasury of human knowledge with the autonomy and freedom appropriate to a university. As a Catholic university, it is further committed to seek and synthesize all knowledge, including the wisdom of Christian revelation. In the pursuit of this integration of knowledge, the University community is enriched by scholarship representing the pluralistic society in which we live. All can participate freely in the intellectual, moral, and spiritual dialog necessary to this pursuit. Within this dialog, in which theological and philosophical questions play a crucial role, students have the opportunity to develop, synthesize, and live a value system based on respect for and critical evaluation of facts; on intellectual, moral, and spiritual principles which enable them to cope with new problems; and on the sensitivity and judgment that prepare them to engage in responsible social action.

**3.** In a Jesuit university, the presence of Jesuits and colleagues who are inspired by the vision of Saint Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus in 1540, is of paramount importance. This vision, which reflects the value system of the Gospels, is expressed in the Spiritual Exercises, the source of Jesuit life and mission. To education the Jesuit spirit brings a rationality appropriately balanced by human affection, an esteem for the individual as a unique person, training in discerning choice, openness to change, and a quest for God's greater glory in the use of this world's goods. Commitment to the values that inspired the Spiritual Exercises promotes justice by affirming the equal dignity of all persons and seeks balance between reliance on divine assistance and natural capacities. The effort to combine faith and culture takes on different forms at different times in Jesuit colleges and universities. Innovation, experiment, and training for social leadership are essential to the Jesuit tradition.

**4.** At the same time, John Carroll University welcomes students and faculty from different religious backgrounds and philosophies. Dedicated to the total development of the human, the University offers an environment in which every student, faculty, and staff person may feel welcomed. Within this environment there is concern for the human and spiritual developmental needs of the students and a deep respect for the freedom and dignity of the human person. A faculty not only professionally qualified, but also student oriented, considers excellence in interpersonal relationships as well as academic achievement among its primary goals.

**5.** The University places primary emphasis on instructional excellence. It recognizes the importance of research in teaching as well as in the development of the teacher. In keeping with its mission, the University especially encourages research that assists the various disciplines in offering solutions to the problems of faith in the modern world, social inequities, and human needs. The commitment to excellence at John Carroll University does not imply limiting admissions to the extremely talented student only. Admission is open to all students who desire and have the potential to profit from an education suited to the student's needs as a person and talents as a member of society.

**6.** The educational experience at John Carroll University provides opportunities for the students to develop as total human persons. They should be well grounded in liberalizing, humanizing arts and sciences; proficient in the skills that lead to clear, persuasive expression; trained in the intellectual discipline necessary to pursue a subject in depth; aware of the interrelationship of all knowledge and the need for integration and synthesis; able to make a commitment to a tested scale of values and to demonstrate the self-discipline necessary to live by those values; alert to learning as a life-long process; open to change as they mature; respectful of their own culture and that of others; aware of the interdependence of all humanity; and sensitive to the need for social justice in response to current social pressures and problems.

## Notes to Keep or Turn In

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

Notes on Mission Statement

Notes on Draft Vision Statement

## Draft Vision Statement

*Grounded in its Jesuit Catholic tradition, John Carroll University will build upon its strengths and innovate to educate a diverse population of undergraduate, graduate and non-traditional students to become inspired and discerning learners and leaders in service to others through their areas of study, with particular distinction in areas that include health sciences, analytics, business and service learning. In doing this, JCU will be a top-ranked regional, private university delivering excellent academic programs by an excellent faculty in an environment where students feel at home.*

**Jesuit Catholic tradition:** We remain firmly committed to our comprehensive core, grounded in the arts and sciences, in the tradition of Jesuit Catholic universities. In addition, we echo the words of former Superior General of the Society of Jesus Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J. in his address on Jesuit higher education given at the University of Santa Clara in October of 2000: “The real measure of our Jesuit universities lies in who our students become.”

**Build upon strengths and innovate:** Strategic planning in an academic institution rests on leveraging areas where we are strong and innovating in the spaces in-between our strengths to meet market needs. Being innovative and acting entrepreneurially has become a valuable skill for students and faculty alike across areas of study.

**A diverse population of undergraduate, graduate and non-traditional students:** We are committed to the implementation of our *Strategic Plan for Inclusive Excellence* as well as growing programs for graduate and non-traditional students, as through on-line offerings.

**With particular distinction in health sciences, analytics, business and service learning:** While we strive to provide all of our students with an excellent experience in whatever areas of study we offer with a solid grounding in arts, humanities and sciences, we aspire to be a recognized leader nationally in health sciences, analytics, business and service learning. Future investments should increase the excellence of our programs and faculty in these areas and develop new programs where market opportunities exist.

**Top-ranked regional, private university:** Our strategy with respect to rankings is clear. We will continue to do what we believe makes us a better institution and let the rankings follow, rather than lead, what we do. That said, we will continue to evaluate our progress reflectively through multiple rankings with a particular focus on how we are evaluated by our peers in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings for private, regional universities in the Midwest.

**Excellent academic programs and faculty:** We should always be striving for quality to build our affinity, both in our programs and the development of our faculty.

**Where students feel at home:** Do I feel at home at John Carroll? The answer to this question is the single biggest reason why students stay at an institution. While our retention and graduation rates are strong, there is room for improvement on both and they have a significant impact on revenues.