

STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE FIRST 3 YEARS



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT KATHERINE

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Our Mission

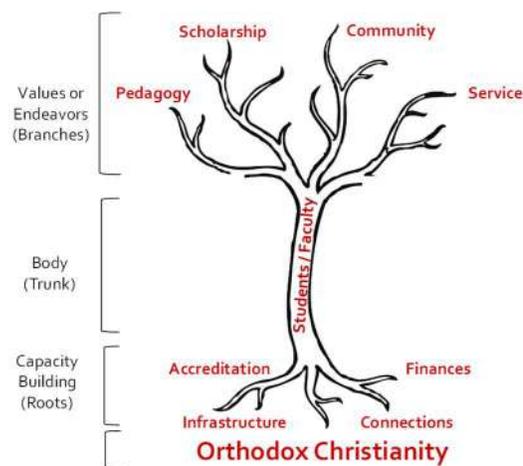
To provide a balanced education in the liberal arts and sciences, founded and rooted in the life of the Orthodox Christian tradition - **Inquiry Seeking Wisdom.**

Our Vision

Inspire lives of learning, faith, and action through a distinctive and transformative Christian education.

Conceptualization of Goal Areas

We conceptualized the university's goal areas in terms of a tree, a living organism. The university is rooted in the soil of Orthodox Christianity. Its capacity to grow and flourish depends on spreading roots in areas such as accreditation, finances, infrastructure, and external connections and relationships. We have a student body and faculty body which we seek to grow. The school values of pedagogy, scholarship, community, and service are also our endeavors, valuable in themselves and the fruits they produce.



GOAL 1. ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY

Promote an Orthodox Christian-inspired education and a vibrant Christ-centered campus life.

- Weekly Chapel continued via Zoom during the pandemic until September 2021, when it resumed on campus
- Required New Testament class changed to a Bible class to include important Old Testament background
- Active FCA and OCF chapters
- Speakers have included Metropolitan Savas, Fr. Turbo Qualls, Very Rev'd Alexander Rentel
- Articulation agreement with Institute of Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge, England; began joint lectures

GOAL 2. CAPACITY BUILDING

Cultivate the processes, resources, and relationships needed for enduring success.

- Expanded Academic Senate, reinvigorated committees to play strong governance role
- Switched to better student financial aid service and integrated it with Admissions
- A long-term contract with a professional financial management and human resources management company helped improve recordkeeping and administrative processes.
- COVID-19 experience strengthened our ability to cope with sudden change
- New buildings for academics/administration and for athletics
- Financially stable throughout this period
- Enhanced institutional research capabilities via membership in the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium

GOAL 3. SCALE

Amplify the University's unique voice in higher education through expanded enrollment and programming.

- Fall 2018 enrollment: 196 BA/BS. Fall 2021 enrollment: 244 BA/BS, 22 MAOL
- More applicants with solid high school or community college GPAs
- Retention has improved despite COVID-19 challenges
- New courses and concentrations offered via consortium of small colleges
- Dual enrollment program for high school students
- Higher pay for part-time faculty
- Improved office and kitchen/lounge space for all faculty and staff

GOAL 4. PEDAGOGY

Teach so that students learn about the world and about themselves.

- Addition of CSS 100 (College Success Strategies) to 1st year curriculum
- Faculty development program holds regular training and sharing sessions
- Schoolwide initiative to increase writing expectations in courses
- Interdisciplinary Core courses realigned to reflect a clear progression in academic rigor and with Orthodox Christianity as a unifying element
- Program Learning Outcomes assessed for all degree programs
- Federal work-study funds provide several students with paid experiential learning opportunities as tutors, health aides, and facilities workers
- Two certification prep classes: Registered Behavior Technician and ACE Personal Trainer
- Added first Master's program (MA in Organizational Leadership)

GOAL 5. SCHOLARSHIP

Involve students and faculty in advancing their fields.

- Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership program accredited and implemented. Led to creation of an IRB: First two student research proposals have passed through it.
- Faculty members David Williams, Bethany Getz, and Jiji Osiobe have published recently.
- New faculty writing group. Faculty & Staff Book Club.

GOAL 6. COMMUNITY

Put moral and ethical leadership at the center of campus life.

- Strong athletics program that reinforces importance of academics and service. Athletics team-based study halls help students maintain academic discipline
- Hosted a speaker on human trafficking, an example of attention to moral issues
- Recycling bins throughout USK premises. USK Food Bank.
- Expanded free mental health services, both in-person and by video chat
- President's Letters, Monday Memos, Student Newsletters, and other communications have helped bind us together as a community throughout the pandemic

GOAL 7. SERVICE

Enrich students' and neighbors lives through action.

- Many students exceed the service requirement of 5 hours/semester
- Letter of appreciation from Habitat for Humanity
- USK won an NAIA Champions of Character award for community service, good behavior during competitions, and strong academic performance.

How to Get Involved

1. Get to know us!

- ✓ Visit USK. Contact Dean of Admissions/Registrar Marina Trigonis at mtrigonis@usk.edu to schedule a tour and meetings with faculty or staff.
- ✓ Attend a USK sporting event. See the schedule at uskathletics.com. Contact Athletics Director Alyssa Ramos aramos@usk.edu to meet a coach.

2. Put the word out!

- ✓ Encourage college-bound teenagers you know to apply to USK. A high school or community college GPA > 3.5 may earn a Presidential scholarship of \$10,000 each year for 4 years.
<https://www.usk.edu/financialaidandscholarships>
- ✓ Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram. Share your favorite posts on your own page so your friends can get to know us too.
<https://www.facebook.com/stkath/>
<https://www.instagram.com/universityofsaintkatherine/>

3. Make a donation!

- ✓ A cash donation to the General Fund at USK gives us the most flexibility to direct your gift to where it is needed most.
- ✓ Should you wish to support a specific program or activity, exciting opportunities are available at every dollar level. Please contact CFO Ryan West at rwest@usk.edu for details.

4. Pray for us!

- ✓ Please remember us in your prayers. For inspiration, read about the life of St. Katherine, the teenager who successfully debated the philosophers of her day, proving that Wisdom can be gained at any age.

