

<http://president.emory.edu/initiatives.html>

## **Emerging University Priorities**

Emory is making choices that will guide the university into a bold future. Through careful consideration of listening sessions, interviews, focus groups, surveys, and conversations with people throughout the Emory community, university leaders have identified four emerging priorities. These priorities capture Emory's current strengths and bold future as an outstanding global research university, with a liberal arts core and a stellar health care system. They build on the talent of our faculty, students, and staff and ensure that Emory will deliver on its commitment to contribute to society and the common good.

A series of four public discussions took place in January, one devoted to each university priority listed below and facilitated by Emory faculty. In addition to the on-campus events, alumni, students, faculty, and staff have been generous in sharing their online responses. Robert Franklin, a co-facilitator and the James T. and Berta R. Laney Professor in Moral Leadership at Candler School of Theology, said: "The president invites us to be bold in our aspirations and proposals. That doesn't happen often in American higher education, but Emory is one of those special places where it is happening now." The president is grateful for the richness of the emerging ideas, which now will be used to fine-tune the priorities.

### **1. Strengthening Academic Excellence**

Building on Emory's current research and teaching strengths, this priority will develop incubators of innovation, which will lead to new knowledge and discoveries, new teaching pedagogies and ways of learning, and support for outstanding faculty members and students. It will build on the interdisciplinary collaboration that characterizes Emory. This priority will enable strategic advancements in teaching and research from the humanities and arts to the social, natural, and health sciences as well as the professions. It will require organizational flexibility—for example, the flexibility to ensure a coherent and integrated Emory Undergraduate Experience. Key investments will be made in named and endowed faculty chairs, student scholarships, programs, centers, institutes, and state-of-the-art facilities.

### **2. Deeper Engagement with Atlanta**

Emory is proud to be a part of Atlanta, a city and region with strong traditions and culture as well as a legacy of human rights; a hub for business, commerce, and transportation; and a growing center of communications, entertainment, health care, academics, the arts, and discovery and innovation. A deeper partnership with the Atlanta community will allow Emory faculty and students to be of service, contributing expertise and talent to local opportunities and challenges in many areas—from collaborating with local nonprofits in arts and culture to engaging with government and civic groups to partnering with local businesses. In addition to improving daily life in Atlanta, this engagement also will advance the Emory community and enrich the Emory experience for our students, open new scholarship and research opportunities for our faculty, and provide greater connections between a world-class city and university. Ultimately, all of these opportunities come with the goal of serving humanity and improving conditions—locally as well as globally.

### **3. Global Health Innovation**

Global health innovation is an area of existing excellence that is important to Emory, Atlanta, and the world. In addition to Emory's academic and health partnerships across the globe, Atlanta is home to leading global health institutions, including The Carter Center of Emory University, the Task Force for Global Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Emory already has an institute, department, and many courses that focus on some aspect of global health. The university also has excelled in fields that are not typically considered as global health but which have had a powerful and positive impact on the health of people around the globe—for example, drug discovery and development. By necessity, success in global health innovation in the 21st century will be multicultural and multidisciplinary. This priority will connect a university-wide effort that broadly addresses innovation in global health and will position Emory as the academic leader in this field, including an emphasis on the future of children.

### **4. Enhance the Impact of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center**

Emory is fortunate to have a top academic health sciences core, the Woodruff Health Sciences Center, which includes an outstanding health care system, Emory Healthcare. This priority focuses on enhancing collaborations within the Woodruff Health Sciences Center, across Emory, and with our local and global partners. Enhanced collaborations will not only increase the impact of health care and delivery in our region but also stimulate academic and clinical partnerships that result in significant cutting-edge research. This priority will address the challenges of the business of health, current and new ethical challenges in research and health care delivery, and policy making.