



**INTER AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO  
Metropolitan Campus**

**Report to  
Middle States Commission on Higher Education  
New Mission and Goals**

**Executive Summary**

Inter American University of Puerto Rico (IAUPR) is a private, non-profit Hispanic-serving institution and the largest private university in Puerto Rico with nine campuses and two professional schools: School of Law and School of Optometry. Enrollment, in recent years, has been maintained at approximately 44,000 students. It offers 135 undergraduate programs, 63 masters' degrees, 13 doctorates and 6 professional certificates. It also offers a Juris Doctor and a Doctor in Optometry degrees. It was originally founded in 1912 as the Polytechnic Institute of Puerto Rico by the Reverend John William Harris. Since 1944, the Institution has been accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. It was the first four-year liberal arts college accredited outside the continental limits of the United States.

In Fall 2008, the Metropolitan Campus has an enrollment of 10,613 students; 99% are low income, low middle class, and Hispanics students. Metropolitan Campus offers 119 degrees: 12 technical certificates, 7 associates, 46 baccalaureates, 5 professional certificates, 35 master's and 14 doctoral degrees. Annual graduating class average is 2,000 students. In addition to Puerto Rico Council on Higher Education authorization and Middle States Commission on Higher Education accreditation, the Metropolitan Campus has professional accreditations by the National League of Nursing, Council on Social Work, and National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences. Metropolitan Campus has 584 faculty members; 99% are Hispanics, and 82% of full-time faculty members are tenured or in tenured track positions.

As stated in the 2008 Periodic Review Report, one of MC's major endeavors has been to examine the 1994 campus Mission and Goals statement. In the 2003 Self-Study Report to MS-CHE, the MC established the objective of assessing the adequacy of its mission and goals' taking into account society's changing needs and its specific demands for professionals.

The revised Mission statement emphasizes the development of leadership and entrepreneurial skills to an internationally diverse student population. MC new mission also identifies the commitment to community service, democratic values and the Christian ecumenical tradition of the University.

## **Introduction**

As stated in the 2008 Periodic Review Report, one of MC's major endeavors has been to examine the 1994 campus Mission and Goals statement. In the 2003 Self-Study Report to MS-CHE, the MC established the objective of assessing the adequacy of its mission and goals' taking into account society's changing needs and its specific demands for professionals. In order to accomplish this objective, the following actions were taken: (1) appointment of a Mission and Goals Committee in 2005, (2) analysis and evaluation of current Mission and Goals, (3) identification of MC strengths and challenges, (4) adoption of a framework to guide the process of revision, (5) development of a draft for the new Mission statement, and (6) meetings with campus constituents to discuss the draft. These actions allowed the Mission and Goals Committee to submit a revised Mission statement to the Chancellor.

Initially, asset mapping methodology guided the university community discussions to identify MC strengths and challenges, community values, and aspirations. Two hundred and seventy five (275) faculty members, administrators, and students participated in eleven Mission and Goals workshops. A group of fifteen graduate students from the Organizational and Industrial Psychology Program helped the committee in the implementation of the asset mapping strategy. After the workshops, a draft on the new mission statement was discussed in meetings with faculty members, students and administrative personnel. In addition, the draft has been presented to external community members, such as the Metropolitan Inter Ecclesiastical Council and the Neighborhood Committee. Both groups were convened by the Chancellor.

In September 2008, the President and the Board of Trustees approved the Metropolitan Campus new mission statement.

The revised Mission statement emphasizes the development of leadership and entrepreneurial skills to an internationally diverse student population. MC new mission also identifies the commitment to community service, democratic values and the Christian ecumenical tradition of the University.

## **Metropolitan Campus Mission Statement**

The Metropolitan Campus offers an academic education to students from diverse cultural and national backgrounds. The Metropolitan Campus is geared toward the development of leaders and entrepreneurs committed to making significant contributions that comprise service, democratic values and the reaffirmation of Inter American University of Puerto Rico character as an institution with Christian roots and an ecumenical focus.

## **Through ...**

Comprehensive academic programs, diverse study modalities and in teaching the sciences, the applied sciences, the humanities and professional studies in both English and Spanish. These offerings consist of activities and services pertinent to the needs of the student population in technical certificates, associate and bachelor degrees, professional certificates, and master's and doctoral degrees.

### **Characterized by ...**

A humanistic, liberal education, sensitive to the demands of a constantly changing world and relevant to the demands of the marketplace, of self-suggestion, of the holistic development of the individual, of his/her self-care and environment: an education that will contribute to the economic, political, social, spiritual and cultural development.

### **Committed to ...**

Puerto Rico and the world, to research, innovation, the development of knowledge, and its diffusion and services to its towns and communities.

### **Guided by the principles of ...**

- An ecumenical Christian vision
- Respect for human dignity
- Integrity
- An appreciation for knowledge
- A commitment to cultural and national diversity
- Efficiency and effectiveness in organizational efforts
- Democratic coexistence

## **GOALS**

1. Develop programs and curricula, in Spanish and in English, in the fields of science, applied science, humanities and professional studies that meet disciplinary standards of excellence and the demands of a global society.
2. Maintain an up to date offering with a multidisciplinary and international focus designed to form leaders and entrepreneurs, responsible and moral citizens with critical reasoning skills and able to celebrate the diversity of human creativity.
3. Generate research, innovation, and creative endeavors throughout the academic community in a way that enhances campus programs and services, develops and disseminates knowledge, and contributes to the solution of problems relevant to society.
4. Provide services and activities relevant to a diverse student population in order to support their academic, intellectual, social and moral development as well as cultivate their awareness of social, cultural, economic, environmental, and political problems.
5. Retain a faculty that excels in teaching, research, and educative innovation; a faculty committed to outcomes assessment processes and to fulfilling the norms applicable to their programs and curricula, dedicated to their professional development and to serving the community.
6. Cultivate a competent, agile management team that promotes excellence and continuous improvement that supports the development of programs, services, and activities generated by the community.

7. Foster the continuous development of human resources and their wellbeing within a positive working environment oriented to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the campus's programs and services.
8. Promote democratic values, the importance of service, and the reaffirmation of Christian roots under the ecumenical focus of the University throughout the campus community.
9. Develop an organizational culture of cost-effectiveness and efficiency by strengthening the planning and evaluation processes that lead to strategic deployment of the human, physical, and financial resources needed to achieve the goals and objectives of the programs, activities, and services offered by the campus.
10. Improve the technological infrastructure and optimize its utilization in academic and administrative processes to enhance productivity and to develop more effective communication throughout the community.
11. Increase collaboration between the University, the community, government, and industry to fortify and enrich academic, cultural, and civic activity.

### **Impact of the New Mission and Goals**

The Metropolitan Campus new Mission and Goals do not represent a change in level of instruction, adoption of new delivery modes or establishment of a new program that is not a logical extension of programs currently offered.

The Campus will address the financial impact of the new Mission and Goals implementation by allocating actual resources based on the new Mission emphasis. After MS-CHE approval, all constituents will participate in the development a new Strategic Plan to shape the Campus programs and services to successfully implement this new Mission and Goals. Assessment of student learning will tackle not only academic programs competencies, but also the development of leadership and entrepreneurial skills, emphasis in the new Mission statement.