

## **President's Council on the Global Future Mission Statement**

### **Vision**

Boston University aspires to become one of the great international universities of the century. By developing and harnessing our academic, scientific, spiritual and humanistic resources, we will enable the university community to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and contribute to the realization of a just and peaceful world. To reach this goal we will champion bold new approaches to teaching our students, while seeking and applying new knowledge, and building sustainable partnerships around the globe that will benefit humanity.

### **University Identity**

The fourth largest private university in the United States, Boston University is located in a major city at the crossroads of many cultures. The early nineteenth century origins of Boston University as a radically egalitarian Methodist institution propelled the university to be the first to accept women in all of its degree programs, including medicine, theology, the humanities, and law. African-Americans and recent immigrants received higher degrees early in the University's history. In continuity with its early tradition of inclusion and diversity, today Boston University sustains one of the highest numbers of international students among American colleges and universities. Over 30,000 students from every state and 143 countries are enrolled in seventeen schools and colleges and over 250 degree programs. The faculty and students of Boston University address the challenges of global citizenship from many disciplinary and multidisciplinary perspectives, which span the health and life sciences, the arts, the humanities and the social sciences. Our firm commitment to excellence in teaching and in research, and to diversity, social outreach and activism, makes Boston University a unique environment in which to work toward a better world.

We understand the principal responsibility of a great university to be to educate its students to think critically, to understand not only the career opportunities their education provides but also the challenges facing society, and then to act wisely and with integrity and the intent to make a positive contribution to the world. As alumnus Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote in 1968, "This is the great new problem of mankind. We have inherited a large house, a great 'world house' in which we have to live together—black and white, Easterner and Westerner, Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, Moslem and Hindu—a family unduly separated in ideas, culture and interest, who, because we can never again live apart, must learn somehow to live with each other in peace." Dr. King's words are even more relevant today. At Boston University, building a "world house" means teaching our students to be "global citizens" literate in complex global

issues, doing research and applying it to solve problems, and serving humanity in ways that further the vision of a just and peaceful global community.

## **Boston University and the World**

Boston University has already grown into a global university with a diverse student population and faculty, an extensive study abroad program, and a network of international connections and partnerships. BU is also engaged in the greater Boston community, taking on civic and social responsibilities beyond its own educational mission. For example, the University's longstanding partnership with the Chelsea public schools has resulted in the recognition of the Chelsea Public School District as one of just three in Massachusetts in 2004 to meet "*No Child Left Behind*" standards. The merger between BU's University Hospital and the Boston City Hospital has created Boston Medical Center, a major academic training center that provides "exceptional care without exception" to its patients, regardless of their ability to pay. Building and expanding on this rich legacy, the University looks forward to the future and its important role in educating the next generation of leaders at home and around the globe.

Our world is now faced with enormous stresses due to globalization, which, together with increasing economic disparities and poverty, political turmoil and abuses of basic human rights, genocides and neglect of the poor and marginalized, social disruption, religious strife, isolation from the creative arts and the humanities, widening gaps in health and access to health care, and ecological degradation threaten the stability of societies everywhere. To meet these challenges Boston University will teach, conduct innovative research, and serve with a global perspective to ensure that our graduates have the knowledge, skills, and values to contribute to solutions, while our faculty generates the knowledge necessary to advance the quality of life and eliminate disparities around the world. Boston University will foster opportunities for scholars from the U.S. and abroad to come together to teach, learn, study and serve society. By collaborating across disciplinary boundaries for a greater understanding of the integrated nature of the world, we will seek to solve old as well as new problems in our multicultural world. By building bridges, and thoughtfully moving its global mission into a new phase, Boston University will address the common bonds among people, whether local or far from our shores, and thereby become a force for public good in the 21st century.