NORTH DAKOTA
STRATEGIC GOALS AND BENCHMARKS

GOAL 1. EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

The education attainment of North Dakota's population will be at the level of the highest-performing countries in the world.

Measure
Proportion of population age 25-34 with an associate degree or higher.
Benchmarked against similar data for the industrialized countries of the world—OECD data.

Supporting Goals

a. All North Dakota high school graduates will come to college prepared to succeed.

   Measure
   Proportion of recent high school graduates placed into at least one remedial course upon entering college.

b. North Dakota will achieve high levels of college participation, retention, and completion for all students, including those from historically disadvantaged and high-risk populations.

   Measures

   - Number of recent high school graduates who enter college the following fall.
     Benchmarked against highest-performing U.S. state.

   - First-time freshmen as a proportion of population age 18-34 who have completed high school but who have not attended college.
     Benchmarked against highest-performing U.S. state.

   - Proportion of first-time freshmen who return to college the following fall.
     Benchmarked against best-performing U.S. state.

   - Proportion of first-time freshmen who graduate within 150% of program length.
     Benchmarked against best-performing U.S. state.

   - Number of certificates, associate and baccalaureate degrees awarded relative to the 18-year-old population six years earlier.
     Benchmarked against best-performing U.S. state.

Note: All of the above measures subdivided by race and socioeconomic status insofar as data will allow.

GOAL 2. ACCESSIBILITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Students in all parts of North Dakota will have ready access to both two- and four-year degrees in a wide range of academic programs.

Measure
Proportion of the state's population age 18-65 living within _____ miles of a physical site at which a variety of two- and four-year programs can be accessed.

GOAL 3. CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

North Dakota will have an increasing number of high-wage jobs.

Measure
Number of jobs paying at least twice the amount established as poverty level in the state. Benchmarked against historical trends for North Dakota.

Supporting Goals

a. North Dakota's University System (NDUS) will produce graduates who are educated to meet the needs of the state's economy.

   Measure
   Number of occupations requiring a college degree for which demand exceeds supply.

b. NDUS will be responsive to the training needs of the state's employers.

   Measure
   Number of participants (or participant days) in training programs offered on a contractual basis with employers.

c. The research conducted at the state's universities will contribute to the expansion and diversification of the state's economy.

   Measures:

   - Dollar amount of research funding received from sources external to the university (excluding the state).
     Benchmarked against state's prior history.

   - Revenues received from licenses and patents.
     Benchmarked against state's prior history.

   - Number of jobs (or payroll) created in companies started as a result of university research.

GOAL 4. AFFORDABILITY

Higher education in North Dakota will be affordable to both students and the taxpayers of the state.

Measures:

- Tuition and required fees relative to the lowest quintile per capita income in the state.
  Benchmarked against lowest-performing U.S. state.

- Number of degrees and certificates produced relative to annual state appropriation plus tuition revenue.
  Benchmarked against highest-performing U.S. state.

- Average amount of debt incurred by college graduates (associate and baccalaureate).
  Benchmarked against lowest-performing U.S. state.

GOAL 5. SYSTEM FUNCTIONING

The NDUS will function in such a way that all the assets of the system will be efficiently utilized in achieving the goals established. (The system will function more like a system.)