



Get Ready for the Next Steps in Strategic Planning



Thank you for your engagement and enthusiasm as we completed the first step in the college's strategic planning process – the threats, opportunities, weaknesses and strengths (TOWS) analysis. I envision M State's strategic plan to be one that is enriched and enhanced by input from as many internal and external stakeholders as possible. Robert Delprino, a strategic planning scholar, said it well when he noted, "The best strategic plan is meaningless if the intended participants do not contribute to its development in a meaningful way or accept the integration of the plan into their daily work lives (p.10)."

As such, M State's strategic plan will be one developed in our diverse and unique context, with the needs of our students and communities always at its heart. Finally, M State's strategic plan will help to guide each employee's daily work. I want a useful, clear plan that is free of fluff and educational jargon – one that has clarity and heart and will help to steer us toward the fulfillment of our mission and the accomplishment of our vision – to be *a success story for every stakeholder*.

In the next 30 to 60 days, common themes and trends will be gleaned from your input to inform the next steps in M State's strategic plan. In addition, students will be invited to share their input and views to enrich the plan. Student input will be sought in the customary way, through Student Government, and in some fun and interactive ways, too, so please encourage students to get involved in the process.

In November, supervisors, deans and members of President's Cabinet will finalize the review of the TOWS input. In December, this information will undergo review by supervisors, deans, President's Cabinet, Shared Governance Council,

Student Government, the AQIP Steering Committee, labor management, MAPE representatives and the General Advisory Council. There is a lot of exciting work to do to complete just these first steps of M State's strategic planning process. In the December issue, I'll share an update, along with the process schedule for the rest of the year. You also may view the complete process in the portal at Files and forms>Academic. I look forward to your questions or your input along the way. Thank you.

Source: Robert P. Dalprino, The Human Side of the Strategic Planning Process, Society for College and University Planning, www.scup.org

