

May 18, 2009

To the University of New England Community,

In 2007, the UNE community initiated development of a new strategic plan to guide the University through the next 10 years and beyond. I am grateful for the time and attention the many faculty, staff, students, alumni and trustees – especially those serving on the Strategic Planning Committee – dedicated to this process.

In November 2008, the University's trustees unanimously approved the plan, which includes new mission, core values and vision statements, as well as key strategic initiatives. I encourage you to read these important documents by visiting the links to the left. The adoption of this framework is a significant step toward executing the University's strategic goals into the 21st century.

When I was inaugurated in September 2006, I joined an illustrious list of former presidents who have overseen the University of New England and its founding schools. The University's heritage is unique and varied, bringing together several fine institutions of learning – Westbrook College, St. Francis College, the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the University of New England. As we continue to evolve and grow, we will not lose sight of the core values and legacies of our founding institutions.

The University of New England is fast becoming a regional and national leader in several key disciplines. The strategic plan lays the foundation for focusing efforts in our programs of excellence – notably, health and wellness, environmental and marine sciences, and select liberal arts programs. We are committed to providing our students with a personal, interdisciplinary learning experience that values scholarship, research and innovation as well as lifelong service to community.

It's an exciting and dynamic time for all of us at the University of New England. I am privileged and honored to work with you as we integrate our talents, vision and efforts to bring the University's strategic plan to life in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

Danielle N. Ripich, Ph.D.
President