This Self Study has provided the opportunity to look broadly and deeply at how well CSU is functioning under its mission, vision, and strategic plan. It gave the University the opportunity to engage the entire campus in examining how well it meets the standards set by the Higher Learning Commission as described by the five Criteria and 21 Core Components.

With the Self Study in front of us, the University offers its own observations on the strengths, challenges, and opportunities that the intense process has identified. It was a collaborative endeavor with over 160 people contributing to writing reports and hundreds more reviewing and providing feedback on them. It has actively served to get others across campus involved in this open, transparent process of the Self-Study.

In this concluding chapter, we use the HLC’s cross-cutting themes to frame what we have learned from our Self Study. The Self Study enabled the University to view its recent past, its present, and its future and conclude that the University is strongly guided by its mission, vision, and strategic plan. The University is well positioned to address current and emerging economic and social trends in the region and to reflect upon its place and role in the recently formed University System of Ohio.

**CSU Is a Future-focused Organization**

We feel well positioned to address current and emerging economic and social trends in the Cleveland/Northeast Ohio community under the President’s leadership in implementing Vision Unlimited. We have identified two Signature Themes of Health and Sustainable Communities which outline the pathways the University will take to create its desired future. The two Signature Themes are crucial for the University and for the region and we are confident that the three associated Centers (21st Century Health Professions, Gene Regulation in Health and Disease, and Next Generation Economy) will allow us to be a catalyst for the region. The leadership of the President, faculty, and staff in strategic planning, in the University’s commitment to be future-focused, and in its capacity to engage its constituents will provide the commitment and momentum to develop these themes in its particulars.

**CSU Is a Student-focused University**

We continue to make concerted efforts to be effective in assessing learning outcomes. Each College and School continues to do systematic assessments of student learning outcomes. The University has taken great steps in providing a unified, coherent system of assessment. Our assessment effort is
aligned with the University’s mission to ensure that CSU successfully implements its mission. The University encourages faculty to take ownership of the curriculum, supporting them in their professional development related to instruction. We continue to monitor trends in our performance through data in our Book of Trends to adjust our efforts.

The Information Technology division and the Michael Schwartz Library continue to support faculty and students effectively in teaching, research and scholarship, and creative activity. We have predictable support from these units. CSU takes a proactive commitment to diversity because we understand how its central mission is linked with the future of a diverse society. CSU aims at providing accessible education for all who select it, and is actively studying to increase its retention rate. Many programs strive to meet the needs of our diverse population in terms of curriculum, students services and/or student placement.

We see ourselves as a student-focused institution and take a proactive approach to diversity because we understand how our central mission is linked with the future of a diverse society.

We continue to monitor our enrollment, attrition and retention efforts to meet the goals we have set and that we know we must meet.

CSU Is Distinctive as a Strong Partner with Cleveland and Its Northeast Ohio Community

CSU as an urban university is keenly aware of its role in the Cleveland region. We have several partnerships with Cleveland schools, with community colleges in the region, with other universities and colleges, and the City of Cleveland itself. In Criterion 2 and 5 we explain the efforts we are making in partnering with the community and the region to maximize and grow the region economically and socially. We partner with schools, community colleges, and other institutions of higher education.

We are proud of our role and see it developing with great hope. The open, inclusive, intensive process we have followed in completing this Self Study over two years of preparation show our commitment, our strengths, goals, and opportunities for our future. We are proud of our strengths as an institution in the Cleveland and Northeast Ohio region, in the State of Ohio, and as a national contributor.

CSU views itself as a strong partner with the Cleveland and the Northeast Ohio community. We have several partnerships with the City of Cleveland, K-12 schools, other universities, and community colleges. One example we can point to is the recent Campus International School, a collaboration of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and the University, which is an effort to offer high-quality educational opportunities for the children of Cleveland residents and CSU employees.
Request for Continued Accreditation

This Self Study Report demonstrates that CSU continues to achieve a high standard of teaching, research, scholarship, and service in meeting its mission. It meets the criteria for accreditation. Therefore, the University asks that it continue to be recognized as an accredited institution by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. The University intends to use the Self Study to push ahead in fortifying CSU’s strengths and continuing to refine its strategic plan to meet the challenges identified in the Study. CSU is grateful for its faculty, department chairs, deans, academic support management, and staff for participating in this exercise and helping the University to realize the recommendations from the last site visit. CSU students are ardent believers in their University, and CSU’s work is dedicated to allowing them to receive an affordable, competitive education that will prepare them to navigate an increasingly complex society.