

**TEACHING, RESEARCH, OUTREACH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:  
INTERGRATING THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE LAND GRANT MISSION AT THE 21<sup>ST</sup>  
CENTURY PUBLIC RESEARCH INSTITUTION**

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***Presentation Summary (limited to 200 words)***

The record of the role played by public research universities, and especially land grant universities, in the history of economic development in the United States is clear and convincing. These schools, born in the turmoil of the Civil War, prepared generations of students who created and drove the “American Century.” Further, research done at these schools undergirded the growth in science-based industries of the 20th century, and with that, prosperity and growth of the middle class. As a result, the mission of these schools came to rest on three pillars: teaching, research and outreach.

Today, early in the 21st century, many of these schools have added economic development as a fourth pillar undergirding their mission. They have done so in recognition of the new role that they are called upon to play in driving innovation, entrepreneurship and broader economic opportunity. This is a significant challenge for some institutions, especially as it comes at a time when some states are providing fewer resources per full-time equivalent student. This situation calls for deep reflection on the university mission, recommitment to it, and a new level of seriousness in strategic planning, if we are to succeed. This presentation will review these themes; provide reasoning as to the timeliness of the public-land grant mission and, hopefully invigorate new thinking.