SUMMIT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Perry Alexander, Co-Chair, Professor of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science/ Director of Information and Telecommunication Technology Center
Nancy Baym, Co-Chair, Professor of Communication Studies
Leonard Krishtalka, Co-Chair, Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology/Director of the Biodiversity Institute
Arienne Dwyer, Associate Professor of Anthropology/Co-Director of the Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities
Saralyn Reece Hardy, Director of the Spencer Museum of Art
Steve Hawley, Professor of Physics & Astronomy/Director of Engineering Physics
Deborah Ludwig, Assistant Dean of Libraries/Director of the Center for Digital Scholarship
Susan Lunte, Ralph N. Adams Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemistry/Ralph N. Adams Institute for Bioanalytical Chemistry
Mary Morningstar, Associate Professor of Special Education/Director of the Transition Coalition
Prakash Shenoy, Ronald G. Harper Distinguished Professor of Artificial Intelligence, School of Business

Staff: Sandra Hannon, Office of Institutional Research & Planning

SUMMIT CONVENERS, OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Mary Lee Hummert, Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Professor of Communication Studies
Mabel Rice, Fred and Virginia Merrill Distinguished Professor of Advanced Studies

More information about KU Strategic Planning is online at provost.ku.edu/planning.
Strategic Initiative Theme Four:

Harnessing INFORMATION, Multiplying KNOWLEDGE

Message of Urgency:
A connected human network thrives on technology that accelerates the creation and sharing of knowledge. Harnessing the potential of information in a positive way promises to revolutionize how we live and enhance our civilization.

Globally, from macro to micro to nano, we create ever-smaller devices that store and communicate ever-growing amounts of information. Utilizing that information — and extracting the underlying knowledge it contains — provides the basis for modern economic development, technological innovation, health care, energy, education, national security, and overall well-being.

Locally, information advances will promote a robust economy and span the urban-rural divide, fostering health and well-being across our many communities. The state can become a leader in harnessing the power of information while protecting the privacy and security of its citizenry.

Bold Exemplars:
1. Today's society runs on information — to create new knowledge, innovate, communicate, improve services and efficiencies, reduce environmental impacts, and improve health. Failure of the information infrastructure can be devastating socially and economically. We will create a multidisciplinary ecosystem for an information infrastructure worthy of trust so that information can be analyzed, searched, mined, visualized, and communicated, yet remain protected, authenticated, and secure.
2. The ability to control matter and information at the quantum, atomic, and molecular levels will lead to significant advances in energy, biorefining, medicine, and electronics at nanometer-length scales — developed using interdisciplinary KU research strengths and new degree programs in nanomaterials science.
3. KU advances in digital technologies will spur innovations throughout the academy — enabling advances in the humanities, arts, social sciences, natural sciences, and engineering — that will spur our future economic competitiveness, health care, transportation, energy supply and distribution, homeland security, and overall quality of life.
4. Educational innovations in our schools and the dissemination of information to the public will be important for the enhanced literacy and appreciation of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). KU's efforts will create a workforce for an innovation-focused economy and a citizenry better able to understand and make decisions about technological issues.