

OUR VISION

**We create
open pathways
to knowledge for
a good society**



DALARNA
UNIVERSITY

Higher education in Dalarna has a long history, beginning in 1822 with the engineering college Fahlbergsskolan. In 1875, teacher training began (Folkskoleläraryrkesseminariet), followed by nursing in 1894 (Sjuksköterskolan). In 1977, Högskolan Dalarna (Dalarna University) was established under the name Högskolan Falun/Borlänge.

Since 1977, some 100 000 students have studied at Dalarna University – a great many of whom are active today in businesses and organisations throughout Dalarna.

From the outset, the University has chosen to conduct research in close collaboration with regional partners from a variety of fields and branches – the humanities, health care, education, tourism, steel, energy, transport. The University's first own doctoral examination took place in 2013.

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DALARNA
UNIVERSITY

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S FOREWORD



Our vision aims to illustrate the future that we all – colleagues and students alike – create through our daily work. It is therefore both about us today and about the University of the future. The vision positions the University in a wider context and formulates how we view our mission – the role we wish to play in society as a whole.

Our vision builds on our origins, on the reasons we were founded. As such, our history and past decisions have played an important part in discussions about our future. The vision relates both to everyone that makes Dalarna University what it is today as well as to our commitment and dreams for the future. We have tried to capture the very soul of the University in our many discussions while seeking to forge our vision. And in those discussions, we have also been able to formulate the values that we mean to stand for and live by.

Our vision will now serve as the foundation for our strategies and action plans, where together we set the goals for the future development and growth of the University. I hope it will contribute in a meaningful and inspirational way to our work, both serving as a guide for ourselves and providing clarity to others.

December 18, 2014

Marita Hilliges

OUR COMMITMENT

We co-create...

We pursue education and research in close collaboration with our world. Collaboration with companies and organizations and relationships between students and staff are based on our being co-actors, not simply producers and consumers or clients and contractors. We make our presence known in the community and actively create meetings so that we can jointly identify and formulate needs and solutions. We do more than merely work together, we co-create.

self-formation, education, and research...

We create the best conditions for self-formation, education, and research to stimulate their mutual growth. This contributes to the increasing independence of students in both thought and action and in their ability to take active responsibility in their futures as professionals and members of society. By way of creative inquiry, we develop and cultivate knowledge and understanding that will serve to create a better society.

in Dalarna and in the world.

We prioritize the specific needs for competence and knowledge that exist in Dalarna and the surrounding region. At the same time, companies, organizations, and our students are active in national and global contexts; therefore, global perspectives and global responsibility characterize all our work. Dalarna's future is closely linked to developments worldwide; solutions to major social problems can grow out of local initiatives. Our task is to clarify these relationships and open up for innovative solutions.

OUR VALUES

Openness

We are open towards each other and state our views clearly, both inside the University and outside to the world we work with. We make our teaching and research ever more accessible, and we participate actively in open public debate. We work openly and closely with other universities both in Sweden and in the world at large.

Courage

We have the courage to pursue our well-founded convictions. We dare to challenge and to place ourselves in uncomfortable situations, but we always show each other respect. We dare to try new ideas and readily admit our failures, convinced that without failure, there will be no development. We dare to tackle complex issues and contribute to solutions to major societal challenges.

Responsibility

We take active responsibility for our core functions – self-formation, education, and research – in co-creation with the world around us. We also have a major responsibility to serve as a critical and intellectual hub within society. By showing consideration and generosity, we take responsibility for each other.

This responsibility is mutual: between employees, between students, between teachers and students, and between the University and the outside world, and we make these mutual expectations clear.

OUR VISION

We...

It is our students and employees that as a collective are the strength of Dalarna University. Together with our partners, locally and globally, we work to create knowledge and understanding.

create open pathways...

The different pathways to knowledge we create are open, accessible, and inclusive. We strive to ensure that all those with relevant preparation and proper motivation can involve themselves in higher education throughout adult life. We explore and develop open and collaborative working methods both for the next generation of learning and for the next generation of research. We are leaders in creating effective and inspiring meeting-places where we can support each other's learning through education and research in co-creation with the community.

to knowledge...

Inquisitively and critically, we build on an increasing body of scholarship, scientific knowledge, and proven experience. Through discussion and reflection, we contribute to a better understanding of ourselves and our world, and to a deeper ethical insight. Our courses and programmes promote good judgement and the capability to act. We support people's learning in their lifelong process of self-formation, and we further the development of society through the empowerment of individuals and through the constructive contributions and critical scrutiny of scholarship.

for a good society.

An ongoing discussion about what constitutes a good society is but one starting point for our education and research. A common basis for this discussion is our conviction that a good society must be based on:

- ▶ the equal value of all human beings,
- ▶ the value and benefits of democracy and diversity,
- ▶ the empowerment and self-reliance of the individual,
- ▶ the economic and ecological sustainability of production and consumption, and
- ▶ the just distribution of world resources.

We take active responsibility for the promotion of such a society, not only in our own region and for our own generation, but also in the world at-large for generations to come.

Approved by the University Governing Board on December 18, 2014.

OUR COMMITMENT

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**We co-create self-formation,
education and research
in Dalarna and in the world**



OUR VALUES

**Openness
Courage
Responsibility**