Western University of Health Sciences is embarking on a strategic planning project to update the 10-year strategic blueprint created for the University five years ago. As we now are at the halfway point of that 10-year plan, some modifications are needed to reflect planned and unplanned milestones reached over the past five years, and to adjust our course as needed as we move forward.

The planned milestones included the establishment of four new colleges; meeting and exceeding enrollment goals for 2010-12; completing more than 250,000 square feet of new construction for instruction and research, and building a 600-car parking garage; and continuing to solidify WesternU’s strong financial footing.

The unplanned milestones included launching an Interprofessional Education program; establishing the Western Diabetes Institute; renovating the Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy; and developing the COMP-Northwest campus in Oregon and welcoming its inaugural class.

We now enter a new phase, the “Age of Fulfillment,” one where all of us will help shape the goals and direction of the University over the next five years. A Strategic Planning Task Force made up of key University personnel from all areas has been appointed to facilitate this process, chaired by Dr. Sheree Aston, Vice Provost. Over the next several months, this group will be responsible for assessing the University’s position, collating and refining its vision and objectives, and ultimately crafting an updated Strategic Plan.

Frequent updates on our progress will be given to all stakeholders, and opportunities – including town hall forums and surveys – to comment on the strategic plan’s progress will emerge along the way.