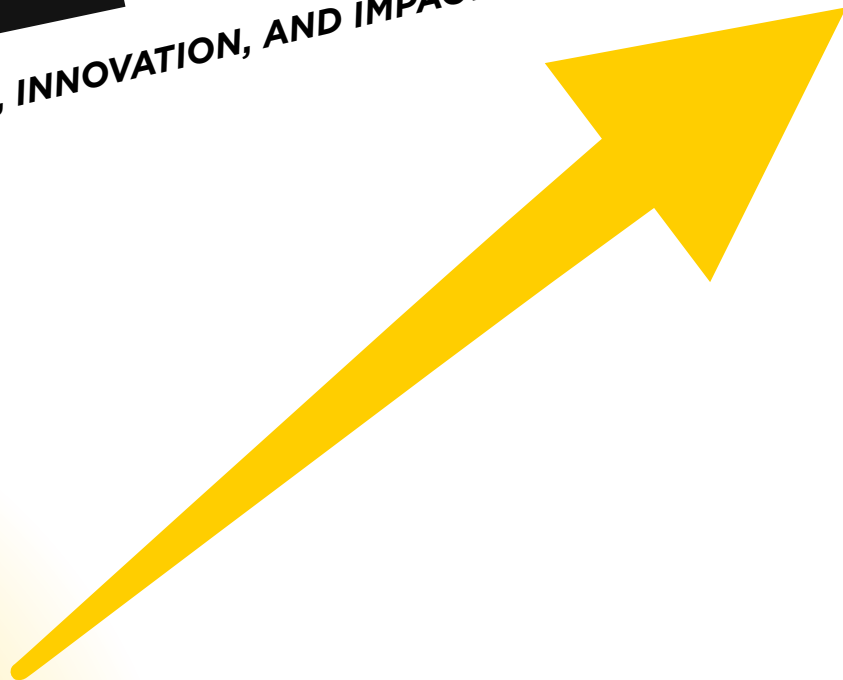




THE GRADUATE SCHOOL'S STRATEGIC PLAN FY26-29

ELEVATE

ADVANCING RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND IMPACT FOR BOWIE STATE'S R2 FUTURE





In alignment with Bowie State University's Boldly Forward Strategic Plan, the **Elevate** Strategic Plan charts a bold and transformative course for the Bowie State University Graduate School as it leads the university's ascent toward Carnegie R2 research classification and national distinction. Built upon Bowie State's legacy of innovation, access, and excellence, **Elevate** positions the Graduate School as the catalyst for research advancement, creative discovery, and 21st-century graduate education.

Guided by the spirit of "advancing research, innovation, and impact," **Elevate** represents more than a roadmap, it is a movement. It calls for the intentional cultivation of academic brilliance, the building of agile research infrastructure, and the creation of life-changing graduate learning experiences that prepare scholars to lead in a rapidly evolving world.

The plan's three strategic goals—Igniting Academic Brilliance, Positioning the Graduate School for a Bold and Innovative Future, and Cultivating Life-Changing Learning Experiences—reflect a holistic vision for growth that intertwines scholarship, creativity, and purpose. Each goal is anchored by actionable objectives that will expand research capacity, strengthen operational excellence, and redefine graduate education for the next generation of leaders and innovators.

Through initiatives such as the Graduate Research Center, Research Incubator, and Idea to Impact Grant Program, **Elevate** reimagines the Graduate School as a nexus of interdisciplinary collaboration, mentorship, and discovery. By investing in 21st-century learning modalities, ethical engagement with emerging technologies, and student-centered success structures, the plan ensures that Bowie State graduate scholars not only pursue knowledge—but use it to shape a more just, creative, and innovative world.

Ultimately, **Elevate** is about amplifying Bowie State University's voice in the global research and innovation landscape. It signals a new era of graduate education—one where brilliance is ignited, impact is measurable, and the pursuit of knowledge uplifts communities and transforms the future.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL MISSION

The Graduate School empowers scholars, practitioners, and creators to lead through research, innovation, and social impact. We prepare graduate students to generate new knowledge, translate ideas into solutions, and elevate communities through advanced study and purposeful engagement.

VISION

Bowie State University's Graduate School envisions a bold future where innovation, discovery, and purpose converge. We will cultivate a community of advanced scholars who transform ideas into impact, pioneering research, creative expression, and solutions that shape the future of our world. As a catalyst for Bowie State's rise to R2 distinction, the Graduate School will ignite pathways of excellence that redefine what graduate education means at an HBCU and in the 21st century.



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL CORE VALUES

SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE

We pursue the highest standards of academic rigor, creative inquiry, and research innovation. The Graduate School champions a culture of intellectual depth where graduate students and faculty push the boundaries of knowledge and practice.

INTEGRITY IN DISCOVERY

We uphold honesty, transparency, and ethical responsibility in all forms of research, creative work, and scholarly engagement. Our commitment to integrity ensures that every pursuit of knowledge is guided by truth and respect for humanity.

INNOVATION AND IMPACT

We champion bold ideas that transform research into real-world solutions. Through creativity, collaboration, and entrepreneurial thinking, we empower graduate scholars to move ideas from conception to impact.

SERVICE THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP

We believe that knowledge has purpose when it uplifts communities and advances the public good. The Graduate School prepares scholars who engage locally, nationally, and globally, translating expertise into meaningful contribution.

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

We affirm that diversity of thought, identity, and experience enriches every dimension of graduate education. By fostering equitable access and inclusive collaboration, we ensure that innovation and excellence are shared by all.

TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP

We cultivate visionary leaders who embody curiosity, empathy, and resilience. Our graduates are not just experts in their fields, they are change agents equipped to lead with integrity and imagination in a complex world.



GOAL 1: IGNITING ACADEMIC BRILLIANCE

The Graduate School will strive to strengthen graduate research, scholarship, and creative production to advance R2 status and national distinction. At the heart of Bowie State's R2 journey lies the brilliance of its graduate scholars and faculty. By elevating research, creative inquiry, and interdisciplinary collaboration, the Graduate School will position Bowie State as a national leader in innovation and intellectual excellence.



GOAL 1: IGNITING ACADEMIC BRILLIANCE



OBJECTIVES

Graduate Research Center

We will establish a Graduate Research Center as an umbrella for cycles of recurring research related programming and support activities including research conferences, research excellence award ceremonies; writing retreats; and lectures and workshops. The Research Center will be the heartbeat of Bowie State University's R2 future and a dynamic hub where innovation, discovery, and collaboration converge. The Graduate Research Center will position Bowie State as a national model for research excellence and creative innovation.

Graduate Student Publications

Bowie State University Graduate School is committed to transforming ideas into influence. By inspiring and rewarding the creation of high-impact graduate student publications, products, and creative works, we will amplify the visibility of our scholars and elevate the university's intellectual and artistic legacy. Through intentional incentives, mentorship, and recognition, we will cultivate a thriving community where innovation and expression flourish side by side.

Research Incubator

We will establish a research incubator; a physical space that fosters collaboration and innovation by bringing together researchers, students, and industry experts to generate, develop, and advance research ideas, projects, and proposals. Through the Research Incubator we will strive to provide a supportive community, resources, and mentorship to facilitate networking, collaborative work, and the translation of research into tangible outcomes, whether that's new publications, patents, or commercial products.

External Grant Proposals

To elevate Bowie State University's research enterprise and advance toward R2 distinction, the Graduate School will cultivate a culture of competitive grant activity that will empower graduate students, graduate faculty, and post-doctoral fellows to pursue transformative research funding. Through strategic mentorship, collaborative proposal development, and targeted infrastructure support, we will expand the number of quality external grant submissions that drive innovation, interdisciplinary inquiry, and societal impact.

21st Century Graduate Education

Bowie State University's Graduate School strives to redefine what it means to pursue graduate education in the 21st century. Rooted in innovation, equity, and interdisciplinary discovery, we will prepare scholars to lead in an era shaped by technology, creativity, and global change. By integrating cutting-edge research, digital fluency, and forward-thinking pedagogy, we will cultivate a new model of graduate learning; one that equips our students to shape the future, not simply adapt to it.

GOAL 2: POSITIONING THE GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR A BOLD AND INNOVATIVE FUTURE

Bowie State University's Graduate School stands at the threshold of a bold new future—one defined by discovery, invention, and national presence. Through a powerful blend of student-centered research funding, robust infrastructure development, strengthened governance frameworks, and strategic enrollment growth, we will build the conditions for a thriving innovation ecosystem.



GOAL 2: POSITIONING THE GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR A BOLD AND INNOVATIVE FUTURE

OBJECTIVES

Idea to Impact Grant

The Idea to Impact Grant Program embodies Bowie State University's bold commitment to turning imagination into innovation. Designed to spark creativity and fuel discovery, this initiative will empower graduate students to transform promising ideas into projects that drive real-world change. By supporting visionary research and creative exploration, the Idea to Impact Grant Program strives to cultivate a culture of experimentation, entrepreneurship, and scholarly excellence that accelerates Bowie State's path toward national recognition and R2 distinction.

Graduate School Research Infrastructure

To power Bowie State University's next era of research excellence, the Graduate School will build a strong and sustainable research infrastructure that fuels innovation at every level. This foundation will connect people, technology, and processes that will support graduate students and graduate faculty as they pursue groundbreaking discoveries and creative breakthroughs. By investing in and establishing systems that streamline research, enhance collaboration, and expand capacity, we will create the structure that transforms ambition into measurable impact.

Policies, Procedures, and Protocols

Excellence requires structure that empowers. The Graduate School will strengthen its foundation through the clear articulation and consistent application of policies, procedures, and protocols that advance transparency, equity, and efficiency. By establishing coherent governance frameworks and aligning them with best practices in graduate education and research administration, we will ensure that every process supports academic innovation and student success.

Graduate Enrollment

Expanding graduate enrollment is central to Bowie State University's vision for growth, excellence, and impact. By attracting talented, purpose-driven scholars from diverse backgrounds, we will strengthen the intellectual vitality of our programs, expand and diversify doctoral programs, and amplify the university's research and creative capacity. Through innovative virtual and in-person recruitment strategies, responsive data driven program offerings, and an unwavering commitment to student success, the Graduate School will open new pathways for discovery, leadership and global engagement.



GOAL 3: CULTIVATING LIFE-CHANGING LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Bowie State University's Graduate School is committed to transforming education into experience. We will deliver innovative, interdisciplinary, and high-impact graduate learning environments. The Graduate School will empower students through support, immersive, interdisciplinary, and applied learning experiences that prepare them to lead in a rapidly changing global landscape.



GOAL 3: CULTIVATING LIFE-CHANGING LEARNING EXPERIENCES

OBJECTIVES

Accessible Program Offerings

Bowie State University's Graduate School is reimagining access to advanced education for a changing world. By expanding hybrid, low-residency, and online programs, we will meet scholars where they are—empowering working professionals, global learners, and creative innovators to pursue graduate study with flexibility and excellence. This strategic expansion broadens our reach, strengthens our competitiveness, and positions Bowie State as a leader in delivering high-quality, future-ready graduate education.

AI Ethics

As artificial intelligence reshapes our world, Bowie State University stands at the forefront of guiding its ethical evolution. Through seminars, dialogues, and creative programming, the Graduate School will empower scholars to critically engage with the moral, social, and cultural dimensions of AI. By fostering interdisciplinary exploration and ethical leadership, we will prepare a new generation of thinkers who harness technology responsibly and advances innovation that honors humanity, equity, and justice.

Student Success

At the heart of the Graduate School's mission is the success of every scholar. By fostering an environment of support, mentorship, and opportunity, Bowie State University will empower graduate students to thrive academically, professionally, and personally. Through intentional guidance, equitable access to resources, and a culture that celebrates achievement, we will ensure that every student has the tools to reach their fullest potential and lead with purpose in their chosen field.





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