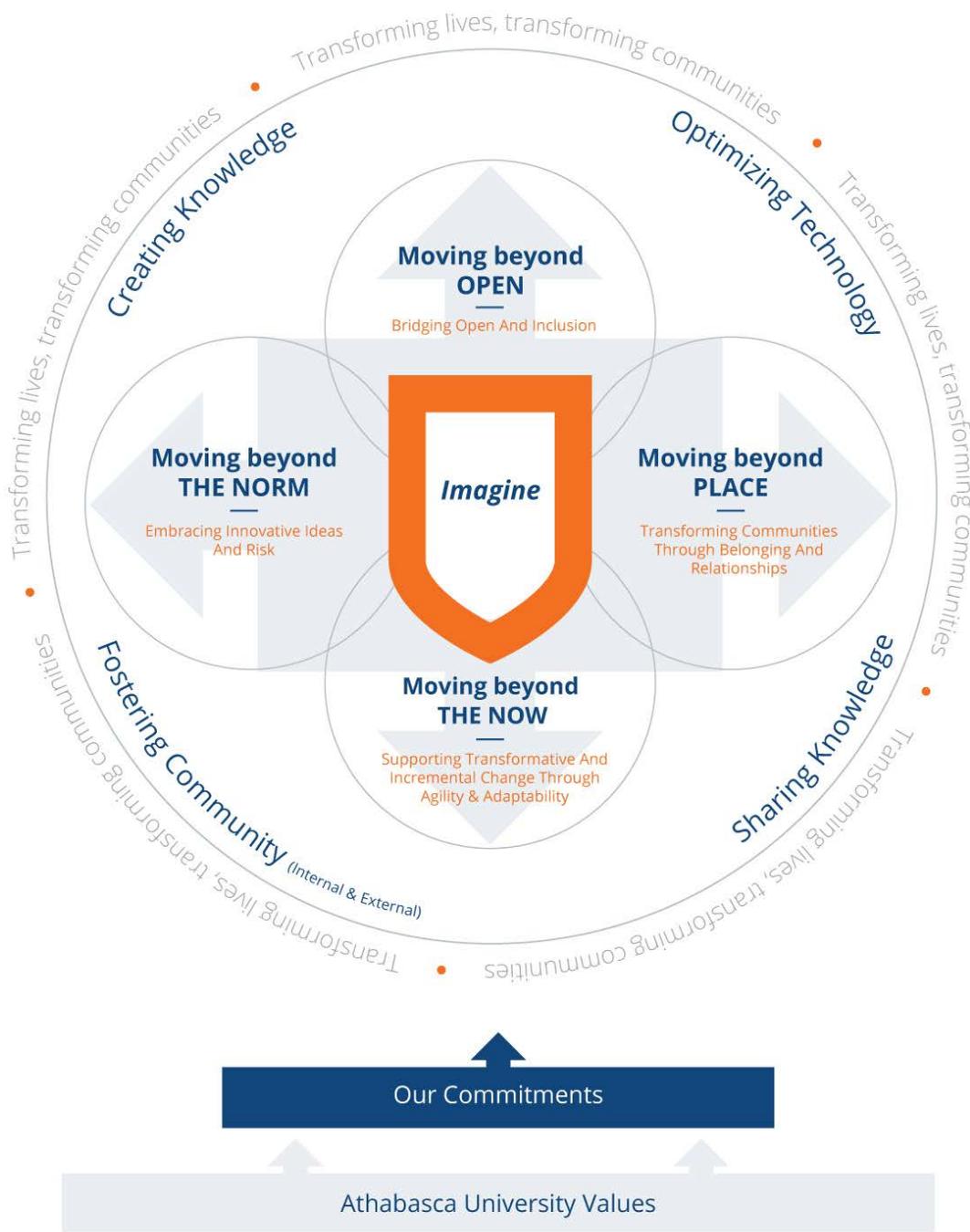


# Imagine: transforming lives and transforming communities





## Athabasca University's Four strategic themes

### **MOVING BEYOND OPEN – BRIDGING OPEN AND INCLUSION**

As Canada's Open University, we are proud of who we are. We focus on issues that are important to our learners and their communities. We are a flexible partner to our learners in their lifelong journey so that they and their communities can achieve their greatest potential. Recognizing that the world is increasingly interdependent and that the leaders of tomorrow will need to address complex problems by working collectively and socially, we create consistent and enduring relationships with our learners. To move beyond Open does not mean to leave it behind, but rather to build on it to realize its full potential. It is recognizing that being Open does not sacrifice quality, but rather strengthens it. By moving beyond Open, we will transform lives and transform communities by:

- **continuing to systemically removing barriers to create a true culture of inclusion in higher education;**
- **connecting the ideas, perspectives, skills, and experiences of diverse individuals so that we may open minds and address familiar problems in new and innovative ways;**
- **understanding our learners and their communities so that we can provide opportunities that address their needs; and**
- **supporting multiple means of representation, engagement, action, and expression in our teaching research endeavors, and our internal and external relationships .**



### **MOVING BEYOND THE NOW – SUPPORTING CHANGE, MODELLING AGILITY & ADAPTABILITY**

As a reflection of current society, the world is constantly changing and evolving, and so too will our University. In the context of a global 24/7 connected and rapidly changing environment, the capacity to be agile and adaptable is fundamental to our success and the success of our learners. In our pursuit of being world class, excellence and effectiveness in our technology, operations, and support systems will provide learners from all walks of life with the confidence that we are accessible, inclusive, and a willing partner in their learning journey. A culture of innovation and creativity in action will become the norm. Through meaningful partnerships, we will drive to be nimble and agile so that our learning and work environments come alive and exceed the expectations of our learners and our staff. External communities will look to Athabasca University for leadership in accessible, inclusive, innovative, and digitally enabled learning environments and learning innovation. In moving beyond the now, we will transform lives and transform communities by:

- **anticipating, assessing, and adapting to create new opportunities and maintain resilience;**
- **harnessing our creativity and technology to reach new heights in inclusive and digitally enabled adult learning and knowledge creation;**
- **embracing simplicity in our internal processes and sophistication in the tools we use; and**
- **rapidly identifying, adopting, and supporting current technologies and ideas**

***MOVING BEYOND THE NORM – ADOPTING INNOVATIVE IDEAS,  
TAKING CALCULATED RISKS***

*Our collective future is limited only by our imagination. In moving beyond the traditional, we need to be open to new possibilities and streamline our existing processes for the betterment of our learners, staff, and partners. Modern processes and structures enable the adoption of innovations to create clearly defined value-added initiatives. Moving beyond the traditional requires risk-taking, seeking out ideas, implementing and evaluating them. In taking these risks, we acknowledge that we may fail at times and are committed to learning and moving on. In moving beyond the traditional, we will transform lives and transform communities by:*

- ***embracing innovative ideas to stimulate creativity, teamwork, and financial stewardship;***
- ***working collectively toward common goals;***
- ***taking calculated risks and employing evidence-based decision making; and***
- ***celebrating our accomplishments as bold decision-makers and leaders in the global post-secondary learning environment.***



***MOVING BEYOND PLACE – TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES  
THROUGH BELONGING AND RELATIONSHIPS***

*From its home in the town of Athabasca, Athabasca University shapes and enables mutually supportive communities. Our personal and collective investment in our learners and in the pursuit of knowledge through research support growth and opportunity in the lives of our students and their communities. We recognize that learning and research strengthen and are strengthened by the communities in which they are embedded. When a learner joins Athabasca University, they are not alone in their learning journey. They become lifelong members of the Athabasca University Community of learners and employees who support, encourage and sustain each other. We are purposeful in creating and sustaining our meaningful, mutually supportive, and safe communities by welcoming new members and engaging existing ones so that individuals and groups can grow and give back to their communities. In our pursuit of moving beyond place, we will transform lives and transform communities by:*

- ***building and fostering belonging, affiliation, and relationships regardless of location;***
- ***engaging with faculty, staff, other educational institutions, and industry partners; and***
- ***building collaborative and coordinated environments and networks to achieve excellence and results.***

**OUR CORE VALUES:**

**Respect**

We foster respect by contributing to an environment in which every individual is valued.

**Integrity**

We are guided by ethics and the virtues of honesty and fairness in all our actions, engendering trust within our university community.

**Community**

We are one university. We achieve more together. We value collaboration, and connectivity among our individual community members and their teams.

**Adaptability**

We are flexible, receptive, and creative. We adapt to the changing needs of the university and its students to ensure continuous improvement.

**Excellence**

We ask bold questions, provoke new ways of thinking, and focus on those things at which we can excel to enhance the quality of all that we do.

**Athabasca University Core Values & Commitments**



**WE ARE COMMITTED TO:**

**Investing in ourselves and others** - We are committed to creating and supporting a growth culture grounded in equity that celebrates success and superior performance while recognizing the importance of persistence and action toward realizing our vision. We are purposeful in the training, development, and deployment of our employees throughout the University. We actively create and foster the culture we choose to have.

**Traditional ways of knowing** - We seek to listen and work with Indigenous learners and their communities to understand how Athabasca University may most effectively support Indigenous learners and community success and how we may be a meaningful partner in the journey toward reconciliation and decolonization.

**Shared Responsibility** - We are a cohesive community that brings together faculty, staff, students, and alumni as valued members of the AU community. We share the responsibility for the success of the university and all of our communities, recognizing that we are an active partner in a broader system.

**Accountability** - We are responsible for our actions. We demonstrate mutual accountability among our faculty, staff, students, and community by operating by the principles of openness and transparency.

**Transforming** - In a global, complex, ambiguous, and increasingly fast-changing world, we embrace transformation to ensure that we foster a resilient, flexible, and creative environment to achieve our highest potential.

**Technology** - We are committed to exploring emerging technologies and implementing creative solutions to provide greater value to the university and to the full digital literacy of our employees and students.

**Call to Action: 2018 – 2027 Strategic Roadmap**
