



Rutgers University – Newark (RU-N) is an urban, public research university that is an anchor institution in New Jersey’s largest city and cultural capital. More than 13,000 students are currently enrolled at our 38-acre campus in a wide range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs across the College of Arts and Sciences; University College; the Graduate School; Rutgers Business School – Newark and New Brunswick; Rutgers Law School, Newark; the School of Criminal Justice; and the School of Public Affairs and Administration.

The RU-N community has long recognized that our location is both a defining influence in our story and a distinctive strength. We attract and cultivate talent on many levels, ranging from generations of students hungry for the opportunities afforded by a first-rate higher education in a major American urban center, to faculty who vigorously embrace the opportunity to produce high-impact scholarship, and engage the community while preparing these students for professional success and informed citizenship. Our location is also a magnet for professional staff committed to advancing our research, pedagogy, and social impact within an inclusive campus culture focused on excellence.

Our Strategic Plan underscores this defining aspect of RU-N’s identity, emphasizing the need to develop even more fully and purposefully our anchor institution agenda. Our work toward this end has been organized thus far under five broad areas that capture much of the scholarly expertise and civic-oriented interests in anchor institution work:

- Building Strong Educational Pathways (pre-K-16) for Increased Postsecondary Attainment
- Strong, Healthy, and Safe Neighborhoods
- Promoting and Leveraging the Arts and Culture
- Science and the Urban Environment
- Urban Entrepreneurship and Economic Development, and Equitable Growth

We embrace an expansive view of “public service,” moving beyond one in which faculty and students do things for “a passive and needy public,” as public historian Scott Peters has put it; we view faculty, student, and staff engagement instead as “public work that taps and engages and develops the civic agency, talents, and capacities of everyone, inside and outside the academy.” Our strategic activities in these areas already range from cross-disciplinary initiatives rooted in community, to partnerships with diverse “communities of experts,” to co-created spaces in the city and region. Throughout, we seek to pool the expertise and energies of our faculty, staff, and students with those of partners from across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.



### **Diversity, A Distinctive Strength**

An engine of discovery, innovation, and social mobility for generations, RU-N has a remarkable legacy of producing high-impact scholarship. A pivotal strength is that RU-N brings an exceptional diversity of people to this work—students, faculty, staff, and community partners—increasing our innovation, creativity, engagement, and relevance for our time and the times ahead. In fact, RU-N is widely known as one of the nation’s most diverse universities.

- Our student body has no majority ethnic/racial group
- 60% of our undergraduates qualify for Pell grants (a measure of socioeconomic diversity)
- 40% of our students are first-generation college-going in their families
- Many are first-generation Americans
- More than half of our students transfer from community colleges

Why does all of this matter?

Think about what has been happening in our world. From the streets of our cities, to divisive political rhetoric, to college campuses everywhere, indeed anywhere you look around the globe, humanity struggles with difference. Literally everything from peace to prosperity depends on our ability to live and work productively in a world where our friends, neighbors, and co-workers may be from backgrounds different from our own in many dimensions. We have a better chance at generating better ideas and better solutions to the challenges we face when we live and work in diverse groups—whether in the arts and humanities, the social, biological, and physical sciences, business, law, criminal justice, or public policy.

### **Leveraging Diversity**

RU-N is the rare kind of place where students, faculty, and staff do just that. We don’t take our diversity for granted. We challenge ourselves to ever more intentionally and pointedly build on our legacy as a place of opportunity—a place where difference is given a human face through the many personal paths, passions, and possibilities that converge here. We believe that we in this community can tackle in a thoughtful, but direct and honest way, the hard work of not only being diverse but, as the eminent philosopher John Dewey implored when he wrote about the need to "tend to democracy" in each successive generation, *doing* diversity—and doing it well.

We welcome inquiries about this intellectually and socially stimulating environment as we work with professionals and citizens from all walks of life to take on the eternal questions and the great challenges of our time. For more information please visit [www.newark.rutgers.edu](http://www.newark.rutgers.edu).