

# WHY PONTIAC? WHY OAKLAND?

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## *Vision statement*

A sustainable, mutually beneficial relationship between Oakland University and the community of Pontiac

## *Mission statement*

The Oakland University Pontiac Initiative is advancing the vitality of Pontiac while enhancing experiential learning opportunities for Oakland students. The initiative supports faculty research and promotes civic engagement in the community. In addition, it calls upon a broad network of individuals and organizations to achieve these goals by using appropriate infrastructure, human and financial resources.



# WHY NOW?

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*I welcome this opportunity to join Mayor Waterman in thanking everyone involved in our renewed and revitalized partnership with the community of Pontiac. As I have said many times, our work in Pontiac is vital in realizing our commitment to becoming a preeminent metropolitan university. More importantly, it provides the opportunity to enhance the lives of our students, faculty, staff and members of the Pontiac community.*

*In early November 2014, approximately 150 people gathered at the Welcome Missionary Baptist Church to simultaneously ask, what can Oakland University do for Pontiac, and what can Pontiac do for Oakland University? The rich variety of answers to these questions created the foundation for a truly reciprocal, mutually beneficial relationship. Subsequently, four task forces were created to address a variety of needs and opportunities that are described elsewhere in this publication.*

*During the past year we have also come to appreciate the work that was already underway in Pontiac including the involvement of Oakland students and faculty at the Baldwin Center and the extensive Healthy Pontiac project.*

*I look forward to the continued growth of this very promising and important partnership.*

*It is truly the right thing to do.*

— **George W. Hynd**  
President, Oakland University

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*On the 1st year anniversary of this remarkable partnership, I am delighted to look back over the achievements of the past year. It has been my great pleasure to work with President Hynd and the many members of the Oakland University faculty and staff who have contributed their expertise and best efforts to galvanize this partnership. It has also been gratifying that so many Pontiac thought leaders, educators, supporters and ambassadors of the community have helped to shape the vision and outlook for Pontiac's engagement in the process. Together, we have made great progress toward our goal of creating a multi-faceted, reciprocal partnership that will significantly enrich both the university and the Pontiac community.*

*Several important initiatives have emerged from the aspirations shared by the many attendees who participated in the two well-attended town meetings held last year. I personally enjoyed working with the interns from the Schools of Political Science, Public Administration, and Journalism. The School of Business has provided an excellent opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs to explore business opportunities. The College Readiness Task Force is providing needed math support to middle school students and developing plans for a Parent University. As a trained health care professional myself, I recognize the ongoing involvement of the Medical School, through its student & faculty, to better the health and wellness of our citizens and I look forward to developing still more initiatives to further mobilize their commitment in this cause.*

*These accomplishments are outstanding – and this is just the beginning. With the continued concerted co-operation we can sustain and continue to expand upon this very promising partnership.*

— **Dr. Deirdre Waterman**  
Mayor, City of Pontiac