On January 13, 2012, Chancellor Debra Friedman brought together all of the UW Tacoma advisory boards along with faculty and staff leaders—88 people—for a first-ever Advisory Board Summit. Guided by Fern Tiger Associates, the group developed an ideal description of UW Tacoma in 2020: an innovative, transformational economic engine for the South Sound.

From those discussions, four immediate priorities emerged:

- Partnership with Joint Base Lewis-McChord
- Environmental sustainability
- Strengthening P-12 education
- Innovations in nonprofit sector support

A report was issued one year later, in January 2013, to outline accomplishments since the Summit. This second follow-up report was prepared to highlight the continued progress made on those four initiatives. As this work demonstrates, UW Tacoma is realizing its mission as a change agent for our students and our region.
CENTER FOR URBAN WATERS

Dr. Joel Baker, Port of Tacoma Endowed Chair and director of the Center for Urban Waters and Puget Sound Institute, has led the development of one of the best equipped and staffed environmental analytical facilities in the Pacific Northwest. The center now employs 20 people in highly-skilled research and support positions. At the Center for Urban Waters, UWT’s involvement with the Puget Sound Partnership has continued to grow, developing and applying the best possible science to Puget Sound clean-up and protection.

NEW!

CLEAN WATER TECHNOLOGY IPZ

In partnership with WSU Extension; city, county, and state economic development organizations; City of Tacoma; and the Russell Family Foundation, UW Tacoma recently became part of Tacoma’s Innovation Partnership Zone (IPZ) in Clean Urban Water Technology. This prestigious designation attracted $3.6 million in state grant funds to provide labs within a shared-use facility where university and private sector scientists and engineers collaborate to develop, evaluate, and bring to market innovative clean water technologies. The new facility is scheduled to open in Winter 2014.

NEW!

WATER PARTNERS OF TACOMA

UW Tacoma is partnering with the Port of Tacoma, City of Tacoma, the Economic Development Board and the Russell Family Foundation to create Water Partners of Tacoma, bringing together entrepreneurs, scientists and policy leaders to test and adopt clean water methods and products. The partnership has hosted the Wellspring Conference on the UW Tacoma campus in 2012 and 2013 for an informed dialogue about the key issues facing the clean water industry.

NEW!

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE STUDENT RESEARCH

Our strong Environmental Science program focuses on undergraduate applied research opportunities (i.e. field trips to locations around Puget Sound to determine Red Tide threat levels) promoting environmental sustainability and the preservation of Puget Sound. During 2013, research by interns included:

- Investigating different methods to remove phosphorus from stormwater. Phosphorus can negatively impact sensitive receiving waters.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The University of Washington Tacoma is driving economic development through science programs focused on clean water technology in collaboration with community partners. A tremendous amount of federal, state and local resources have supported the development of a growing industry cluster in urban water technologies. In addition, UW Tacoma faculty and students apply research and expertise to a wide range of environmental challenges throughout the region.
Assessing the availability of eelgrass around Puget Sound to determine whether eelgrass is indeed the highest-quality habitat for herring, and if there is enough of this habitat available for spawning herring.

Investigating the impact of shoreline armoring along stretches of the Puget Sound. Interns performed a set of physical shoreline surveys to compare the characteristics of armored vs. unarmored beaches.

SOUND CITIZEN
This program supports a community-based water sample network in the Puget Sound region that engages many K-12 students and teachers in scientific investigations of the chemical links between urban settings and aquatic systems. Anyone who wants to participate can request a water sampling kit and contribute to the study of everything from surprising contaminants (cooking spices) to serious ones (emerging pollutants) in our waterways.

NEW!
CURRENT RESEARCH
Research projects and programs sponsored by the Center for Urban Waters:

Puget Sound Institute: Established with a federal grant in 2010, the Puget Sound Institute is a cooperative agreement between the UW, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Puget Sound Partnership that seeks to catalyze rigorous, transparent analysis, synthesis, discussion and dissemination of science in support of the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound ecosystem. Seven research scientists supported by administrative staff perform research for the Institute.

Encyclopedia of the Puget Sound: One of the region’s leading science communication websites, the Encyclopedia of Puget Sound is produced at the Center for Urban Waters with support from the Puget Sound Institute. The online encyclopedia, found at www.eopugetsound.org, helps scientists and policymakers make informed decisions by providing ready access to the best-available, most relevant scientific information.

Washington Stormwater Center: Established through Washington state legislation, the Washington Stormwater Center is a partnership between UW Tacoma and WSU Puyallup that serves NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permittees and stormwater managers as they navigate the complexities and challenges of stormwater management. It provides tools and support to municipalities and businesses in their efforts to control stormwater and protect water quality.

Sources and Distribution of Marine Microplastics: Microplastics are defined as any solid material smaller than five millimeters that is comprised primarily of synthetic polymers. These tiny plastic particles are becoming prevalent in our oceans and the Puget Sound. Ongoing research at the Center for Urban Waters is working to develop standardized methods for collecting, identifying, and quantifying microplastics in environmental samples, as well as consistent terminology to describe the issue.

Air Sampling Project: Particulate and gas-phase air samples are collected at the Center for Urban Waters on the EPA’s 1-in-6-day schedule. These air samples are being extracted and analyzed by Urban Waters staff to quantify the ambient concentrations of two important classes of chemical species: polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and phthalate esters. Air pollution contributes to water pollution, so this research is also relevant to water quality.

Using a Waste Product to Improve Rain Garden Performance: Researchers are exploring how various soil mixes commonly used in rain gardens compare as to their ability to capture heavy metals and nutrients. A rain garden to be built into the Prairie Line Trail, a linear park through the UW Tacoma campus to be completed by the end of 2014, will treat stormwater flowing from several acres of downtown Tacoma’s urban hillside into the Foss Waterway.
NEW!
TACOMA WHOLE CHILD INITIATIVE
UW Tacoma’s Center for Strong Schools, led by Dr. Greg Benner, has launched a pathbreaking partnership with Tacoma Public Schools intended to harness the momentum of school reform at an unprecedented scale. With focus and determination over an eight-year cycle, the initiative brings together a whole child focus with best practices in behavioral intervention, data-based decision making, academic improvement and sustainability. Everyone in a school who comes in contact with students—teachers, librarians, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, administrators, playground staff—is part of the program. In essence, Tacoma Public Schools and the community are working with UW Tacoma to turn around an entire school district with a discipline and systems-focused intensity seldom attempted anywhere else in the U.S.

NEW!
PATHWAYS TO PROMISE
All P-12 school kids should grow up knowing that higher education is an attainable goal. UW Tacoma’s Pathways to Promise program works with school districts, families and community organizations to foster the dream of a college degree, and then creates a pathway to higher ed that is as seamless as possible. Partnerships with Tacoma Public Schools and Puyallup School District—Federal Way School District and University Place School District are coming soon—encourage students, parents and advisors to think and talk about college; create a culture of celebration around the milestones of a student’s path toward college; and clear away barriers to college application and admission. UW Tacoma has created a guaranteed-admission program for participating students who meet four simple criteria, and hosts a three-week intensive summer program called Math-Science-Leadership (MSL) for students in 6th-12th grades who are interested in science, technology, engineering or mathematics education.

STRENGTHENING P-12 EDUCATION
UW Tacoma’s commitment to P-12 education is rooted in its urban-serving mission, and in the community’s determination to significantly increase educational attainment levels in the South Sound region. Together with our community partners we are passionate about creating a college-going culture where it is typical, not exceptional, for students to graduate from high school and aspire to achieve higher education degrees. The future success of Tacoma/Pierce County’s community and economic development depends on the effectiveness of these vital, innovative collaborations.
NEW!
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP DOCTORATE
In Summer 2013, UW Tacoma enrolled its first class of 39 students for a new doctoral program (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership for principals and superintendents to encourage their professional and leadership growth.

GREAT FUTURES SCHOLARS
The Great Futures Scholars partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound is not only helping high-achieving students who might not otherwise be able to afford college, it is creating a network of tutors who can inspire kids coming up through the clubs. The scholars, selected from the Youth of the Year competition, spend three years during their college career mentoring at the clubs to keep kids academically focused and considering college.
**NEW! ACTION RESEARCH LAB**

UW Tacoma’s Action Research Lab will unify the South Sound community by providing robust, action-oriented research and data to address communal concerns. The lab will promote dialogue that develops regional knowledge and applies local solutions. With the lab, UW Tacoma hopes to foster a community narrative: a compelling vision of the role of the South Sound in the region, the state and the world.

**NEW! NONPROFIT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, in partnership with UW Tacoma, is piloting a new initiative aimed at providing scholarships of up to $3,000 for nonprofit professionals associated with current GTCF grantee organizations to participate in the Nonprofit Management Program at the KeyBank Professional Development Center at UW Tacoma. The program seeks to strengthen Pierce County’s non-profit community by supporting professional development of employees of current GTCF grantees, and is funded through the Organizational Capacity Grants Program of the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation. The list of 2013 GTCF grantees includes nonprofit agencies, churches, and grassroots groups. GTCF and KeyBank Professional Development Center will also partner in marketing this pilot program to ensure eligible organizations are aware of the unique opportunity.

**NEW! BIG DATA FOR SOCIAL GOOD**

MultiCare Health Systems, the South Sound’s largest hospital and health care consortium, partnered with UW Tacoma’s Center for Web & Data Science, to provide insights into patient care. The partnership is one of many that demonstrate how UW Tacoma supports the local nonprofit community with relevant research and access to leading experts. MultiCare wanted to develop a predictive model that could identify patients suffering from congestive heart failure who are at a greater risk for future hospital admissions. By analyzing massive volumes of data on patient socio-economic factors, health conditions, health care utilization and provider metrics, MultiCare and UW Tacoma can understand the complex interplay of factors that contribute to hospital readmission.

**NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE**

A new Nonprofit Management Certificate Program is a comprehensive one- to two-year program designed for nonprofit professionals. The KeyBank Professional Development Center also offers the award-winning Fundraising Management Certificate Program. UW Tacoma is working to provide access to scholarships for employees of small nonprofits so they can participate in these programs.
In partnership with The Russell Family Foundation, Sequoia Foundation, and The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, the KeyBank Professional Development Center offered a set of four workshops presented by the highly reputable Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF) on nonprofit financial management to nonprofits located in Tacoma. Hosted at UW Tacoma on November 13, 2012, the workshops were attended by 32 participants from 17 organizations. Following the workshops, NFF conducted follow-up calls to discuss outcomes of the workshops and the potential for continued engagement. Based upon feedback from both grantees and funders, NFF proposed several consulting services to continue to work with UW Tacoma and its partner funders to provide financial capacity building assistance to the nonprofit community to improve literacy, decision-making, and/or planning related to financial management. These services include:

**Financial Situation Analysis**—a multi-year financial diagnostic that establishes a baseline of the organization’s financial conditions, strengths, and weaknesses.

**Financial Leadership**—for understanding the unique dynamics of individual business models, identifying specific organizational financial needs, and better articulating financial goals to staff, constituents, board members, and funders.

**Individual Consulting Clinic**—to help with cash forecasting and scenario planning.
NEW!

VETERAN-FRIENDLY CAMPUS

Sustaining and enhancing a vet-friendly campus, UW Tacoma has been named a “military-friendly school” nationally for the fourth year in a row by MilitaryFriendlySchools.com. The UW Tacoma Office of Veteran and Military Services opened a new center in 2012, a welcoming space for veteran students that provides services to help them access GI Bill and related veteran’s benefits. The Vet Navigator, a full-time volunteer supported by Americorps and the state Department of Veterans Affairs, provides support for veteran students and coordinates veteran-focused activities. A Veterans Working Group composed of staff, faculty and students has been charged with finding ways to further support military students and enhance their educational experiences on an ongoing basis.

NEW!

VETERANS INCUBATOR FOR BETTER ENTREPRENEURSHIP (VIBE)

UW Tacoma launched the Veterans Incubator for Better Entrepreneurship in fall quarter of 2013. VIBE selects veterans with entrepreneurial talent and engages them in an early stage business incubator experience while they earn a bachelor’s or master’s degree. The first program of its kind in the nation, VIBE focuses on developing entrepreneurial talent, making pursuit of a college or graduate degree as important as business development. Recognizing their military duty imparted a unique set of skills and life experiences that are conducive to entrepreneurial pursuits, UW Tacoma will position veterans to start their own businesses and serve as job creators. Drawing on leaders in the regional business community to serve as mentors and supporters for its students, VIBE will contribute to a more robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in the South Puget Sound as these veterans graduate and build their businesses.

CYBERSECURITY & LEADERSHIP DEGREE

In 2013, UW Tacoma’s Institute of Technology and Milgard School of Business launched a new Master in Cybersecurity and Leadership degree designed to serve soldiers, reservists and veterans. The degree was developed at the request of Washington’s Camp Murray cybersecurity unit.

CYBERSECURITY INDUSTRY CLUSTER

UW Tacoma serves as a catalyst for the creation of a cybersecurity industry cluster in South Puget Sound, hosting discussions and sharing expertise with local, state, federal, industry and public-utility representatives.

UW TACOMA STUDENT INTERNS

Fulfilling a UW Tacoma commitment to maintaining a presence on base at headquarters and in the Transition Service Center, these interns already serve as a vital link between UW Tacoma faculty and Joint Base Lewis-McChord.
FOCUS ON TRANSITION

UW Tacoma works in partnership with JBLM and the military and veteran community to support the transition of service members from active military to college and university life.

Programs include:

Air Force and Army Career and Alumni Program (AACAP) Transition Service Center: UW Tacoma is partnering with the AACAP Center at JBLM to provide career counseling and academic advising focused on raising awareness about all public college and university programs available in the state of Washington.

Piloting campus tours: UW Tacoma partnered with the Education Centers at JBLM to develop a pilot for a campus tour program designed to help veterans find assistance with and information about getting a post-service college education. The tours are designed to help service-members see themselves as students and ease their transition into higher education.


Military Spouse Programs: An advisory group of senior military spouses at JBLM has formed to advise UW Tacoma on the development of educational programs and career supports designed for the needs of military spouses. UW Tacoma partnered with the Military Officers Association of America to provide a major education/career event on campus last year to target needs of local spouses.

Student Interns: Fulfilling a UW Tacoma commitment to maintain a presence on base at headquarters and in the Transition Service Center, student interns serve as a vital link between UW Tacoma faculty and Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

MEDEX NORTHWEST

MEDEX Northwest, UW School of Medicine’s physician assistant (PA) training program, opened its newest site at UW Tacoma fall quarter 2013. This new satellite location was selected because of its proximity to JBLM and joins existing MEDEX sites located in Seattle, Spokane, and Anchorage, Alaska. Launched with $887,301 in federal funding, the Tacoma site enrolled 28 students, 14 from military medical occupations and five who are military spouses. Madigan Army Medical Center, located on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, will be one of the practicum sites for MEDEX students.

ENHANCING HUMAN SERVICES PROFESSIONALS’ CAPACITY TO SERVE VETERAN AND MILITARY FAMILIES

UW Tacoma’s Social Work Program is offering a one-day conference on March 7, 2014 to help human services professionals in the South Puget Sound region better serve veterans and their families. The conference will share best practices for addressing common challenges veterans face in work and family life, as well as recent advances in dealing the effects of PTSD and traumatic brain injuries.

ASIA-PACIFIC REBALANCE

UW Tacoma is partnering with I Corps and others on a symposium to examine the impact of the U.S. strategic rebalance toward the Asia-Pacific region that places JBLM and the Puget Sound community at center stage in such areas as trade and investment, social and economic development, military partnerships and alliances, and cultural exchange. The next Views on the Pacific symposium will be held on Wednesday, January 15 at William Philip Hall from 4 - 6 p.m. The topic is “Leadership and International Political Perspectives within the Strategic Rebalance.”
ABOUT UW TACOMA

The University of Washington Tacoma that we envision is an innovative, transformational, economic engine for the South Sound.

STUDENT PROFILE - AUTUMN 2013

- Total headcount: 4,309
- Attend full-time: 79.0%
- Degrees and certificates awarded since 1990: 14,330
- Student-faculty ratio: 18:1
- Female: 55.8%
- Male: 44.2%
- Freshmen: 10.4%
- Sophomores: 12.4%
- Juniors, seniors, 5th yr. and nonmatric. students: 61.7%
- Graduate students: 15.5%
- Freshmen whose parents do not have college degrees: 65.0%
- Students receiving VA benefits: 10.2%
- Caucasian/White: 48.9%
- Asian American: 15.8%
- Latinx: 6.8%
- African American: 6.4%
- Two or more races: 4.7%
- Hawaiian/Pac. Islander: 1.4%
- American Indian: 1.2%
- Not indicated: 7.0%

TOP HIGH SCHOOLS FOR ENTERING FRESHMEN

- Mt. Tahoma Senior H.S.: 4.9%
- Todd Beamer H.S.: 3.8%
- Wilson H.S.: 3.6%
- Lincoln H.S.: 3.3%
- Curtis H.S.: 2.9%

TOP TRANSFER INSTITUTIONS

- Tacoma C.C.: 20.6%
- Pierce College: 18.3%
- Green River C.C.: 9.4%
- Highline C.C.: 7.9%
- South Puget Sound C.C.: 5.4%

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Business Administration (B.A.B.A.)
- Accounting
- Finance
- General Business
- Computer Engineering and Systems (B.S.)
- Computer Science and Systems (B.S./B.A.)
- Criminal Justice (B.A.)
- Environmental Science (B.S.)
- Healthcare Leadership (B.A.)
- Information Technology and Systems (B.S.)
- Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences (B.A.)
- American Studies
- Arts, Media and Culture
- Communication
- Environmental Studies
- Ethnic, Gender and Labor Studies
- Global Studies
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN)
- Social Welfare (B.A.)
- Sustainable Urban Dev. (B.A.)
- Urban Studies (B.A.)

PRE-PROFESSIONAL TRACKS

- Pre-Law/Pre-Med/Pre-Dentistry

CERTIFICATION

- K-8 Teacher Certification

GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Accounting (M.Acc.)
- Business Administration (M.B.A.)
- Computer Science and Systems (M.S.)
- Cybersecurity and Leadership (M.C.L.)
- Educational Leadership (Ed.D.)
- Master of Education (M.Ed.)
- Educational Administrator
- Secondary Education
- K-8 Teacher Education
- K-8 Special Education
- Interdisciplinary Studies (M.A.)
- Nursing (M.N.)
- Social Work (M.S.W.)