When Dr. Christopher Capuano, an esteemed and longtime professor and administrator at Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU), became the school’s eighth president in 2016, he did so with big plans for the future of the school. Instead of allowing FDU to rest on its laurels and merely maintain its position as a “Best Value School” and the largest private university in New Jersey, Capuano’s transformational strategic plan promises to distinguish the school and the education it provides as among the most innovative and relevant not only in the United States but on a greater global stage.

“To advance Fairleigh Dickinson and build even greater value into our degrees, we’ve undertaken a two-pronged approach of building on what differentiates us by creating more centers of excellence and initiating the largest capital campaign in our history with a fundraising goal of $100 million,” says Capuano.

“Ultimately, my dream is to ensure that every student who attends FDU receives a first-rate education that prepares them for success in their chosen field and helps them realize their dreams.”

Gateway to the World
As New Jersey’s largest private university, FDU has more than 12,000 students and 100 liberal arts and professional degree programs, two campuses in northern New Jersey, and international campuses in Wroxton, England, and Vancouver, Canada. Opened in 2007, the Vancouver Campus has been referred to as a “model” international campus.

The university was among the first to look beyond borders and has long provided an international landscape of global views and opportunities. In addition to international campuses, a strong international student population, and many study-abroad options, FDU has special status within the United Nations, and most programs, including the University Core courses, feature global themes.

“FDU is devoted to preparing world citizens through global education,” Capuano explains. “Many of our graduates will work for multinational companies and need to understand and collaborate with individuals from different countries and cultures. So the ability to study with others from around the world, to gain an understanding of global issues, cultures, and diversity, prepares them well for today’s interconnected world.”

Besides its global mission and traditions, FDU has become well known for innovative programs such as its School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences—one of just two pharmacy schools in New Jersey—and its nationally ranked Silberman College of Business.

“We have always prided ourselves on offering programs that give students an edge in the professional world,” Capuano says. “We transform lives, and FDU alumni have taken leadership roles in just about every field imaginable.”

One University Many Dreams
Over the next several years, the One University Many Dreams capital campaign will support a broad array of FDU’s most innovative programs and initiatives, including capital projects such as a new campus center and science building, the renovation of current buildings, upgraded athletics facilities, and increased funding for scholarships that will enable more students to have access to an FDU education.

The One University Many Dreams campaign has attracted record-breaking gifts and pledges from alumni and friends in support of FDU’s strategic plan and academic priorities. The university has already received commitments totaling more than $60 million.

“People are excited by our momentum. The future is very bright, and this campaign will play a big role in elevating the university and creating even more opportunities to transform lives,” Capuano says.