

POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS



In April I joined Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and a representative of the Cleveland Clinic to announce our organizations' participation in the United Nations Global Compact.

The ceremony took place at City Hall, on one of those perfect sunny mornings where light breezes waft in from Lake Erie, and just about everybody wants to be outside. It was, appropriately, Earth Day.


The Global Compact is a voluntary initiative where organizations commit to principles of social responsibility with regard to the environment and human rights, among other realms. Its participants number more than 5,200, including approximately 4,000 businesses in 120 countries. Academic institutions that have signed on include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard Business School, and the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

Case Western Reserve University has played a pivotal role in the development of the Global Compact; in 2004, our center for Business as an Agent of World Benefit helped design and facilitate the U.N.'s first major meeting of CEOs for the project. More recently, the U.N. designated the center and our university as a Secretariat for the Global Compact, which means we will serve as a center of its activities in North America. We are honored and inspired by this opportunity.

You will be able to read more about the center and its outstanding founder and director, Professor David Cooperrider, in this issue. In fact, the overarching theme for this magazine is sustainability, reflecting developing trends and conversations on our campus. Another key element of that effort is the Great Lakes Institute for Energy Innovation, also discussed in these pages. This initiative, begun in the Case School of Engineering, attracted more than \$5 million in philanthropic support from The Cleveland Foundation and the Milton and Tamar Maltz Family Foundation in recent months. In addition, it is emerging as a major emphasis of our yearlong strategic planning effort, drawing interest across several schools and departments concerned with the related questions of energy, the environment, and sustainability.

In June we plan to present the entire strategic plan to our Board of Trustees. This effort, led by Interim Provost Jerry Goldberg, has involved literally hundreds of faculty, staff, students, and other university supporters. Organizers have conducted surveys and interviews, focus groups and multiple town hall forums regarding various drafts. Individual school and college committees, along with the broader university-wide planning group, have spent countless hours discussing individual priorities and the steps we must take to achieve them. At the same time, one of the most exciting elements of the planning process has been the growing enthusiasm for collaboration; as with the Energy Institute, in several primary areas our faculty increasingly recognize the value of building on our collective strengths to achieve greater success.

I encourage you to follow the final developments of this planning effort on our website. Just go to www.case.edu and then type "university plan" in the search box to be directed to our pages on the process. Please feel free to share your comments there, or to write me at the e-mail address below. With this plan as our roadmap, everyone involved with Case Western Reserve University will have a better sense of *where* we're going, and *how* we plan to get there.

I look forward to making the journey with all of you. 

Sincerely,

Barbara R. Snyder
President
Barbara.Snyder@case.edu