* Explore potential partnerships with international universities for full degree programs at international sites;

* Support efforts by research centers and institutes to expand and enhance international research collaborations, and to include an international focus in their missions where appropriate, such as the tri-national collaboration between the United States, Mexico, and Cuba initiated by the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies to enhance understanding and management of the Gulf of Mexico;

* Establish a center focusing on Mexican-American heritage/culture and other regional issues specific to South Texas to increase understanding of the physiogeographic, biogeographic, historical, cultural, and societal issues related to this unique region and to explore responsible management strategies. The center will be supported by the Special Collections and Archives department in the Mary and Jeff Bell Library, a department that is recognized as an area of excellence by scholars across the country.

**IMPERATIVE IV: Establish Targeted Areas of State, Regional, and National Recognition and Distinction**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will create an environment conducive to the achievement of distinction in targeted areas. University planners will place particular emphasis on niche areas which have already attracted external commendation and financial support. The targeted areas will incorporate one or more of the following elements: the university’s commitment to exemplary undergraduate education, the scholarship of learning and engagement, its role as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, its location on the Gulf of Mexico, and its commitment to improving the South Texas region.

**Steps Needed to Achieve Imperative:**

* Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will promote and support national recognition and distinction to ensure the quality of programs and the awareness of the relevant regional, state, and national constituencies of the programs. This will be accomplished with:

  · Pursuit of national accreditation, when appropriate, for academic programs that have disciplinary accreditation standards.
  · A comprehensive and efficient assessment process based on student learning outcomes, satisfaction and post-graduate achievement;
  · A strategic marketing effort to assure national recognition of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students, faculty, staff, alumni and programs.

* Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will identify targeted academic programs which will be supported to achieve and sustain national prominence.