Social entrepreneurship is the process of pursuing innovative solutions to social problems. More specifically, social entrepreneurs adopt a mission to create and sustain social value. They relentlessly pursue opportunities to serve this mission, while continuously adapting and learning. Social entrepreneurs act boldly, not constrained by resources currently in hand. They hold themselves accountable for achieving the social mission and use resources wisely. They draw upon the best thinking in both the business and nonprofit worlds and operate in all kinds of organizations: large and small; new and old; religious and secular; nonprofit, for-profit, and hybrid.

Duke University is widely recognized for its pioneering leadership in social innovation & entrepreneurship education, having provided essential and important legitimacy for the field by producing and facilitating academic research that has defined, informed, and advanced the field and having delivered high quality courses to undergraduates and graduate and professional students eager to learn about the field. For the past decade, this leadership has been most visible through the activities of the Center for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship (CASE) at the Fuqua School of Business and the Enterprising Leadership Initiative (ELI) of the Hart Leadership Program at the Sanford School of Public Policy. Among our distinctive strengths are our:

- **World-Class Teaching.** Duke offers a set of cutting edge courses in social entrepreneurship and related areas, and we have been widely consulted by other universities seeking to establish their own curricula. Duke’s innovative applied learning programs, such as ELI, DukeEngage, the Developing World Healthcare Technology Laboratory, Fuqua on Board, and the CASE Global Consulting Practicum in Social Entrepreneurship (now the Fuqua Client Consulting Practicum), have taken students out of the classroom to work closely with outstanding leaders addressing some of the most pressing social and environmental challenges in North Carolina, the United States, and around the world. In recognition of our contributions as pioneers in this field, Ashoka, the global network of leading social entrepreneurs, selected Duke to be the site of the first-ever global conference on social entrepreneurship education in February 2011, attended by more than 300 faculty, students and administrators from 75 universities from around the world.

- **Student Changemakers.** At the undergraduate and graduate levels, Duke students are leaders of consequence with an outrageous ambition to make a difference. A growing number of undergraduate and graduate student clubs and initiatives incorporate a focus on social entrepreneurship (e.g., the Duke Student Initiative on Social Entrepreneurship, Net Impact, Compass Fellows, Design for America, Duke Start-up Challenge, ChangeWorks competition, Social Entrepreneurship and Policy Initiative, Engineering World Health, etc.), and social entrepreneurship is a growing theme in student activities and events. Duke is proud to celebrate outstanding social sector leaders and social entrepreneurs among the ranks of its alumni (see sidebar on following page).

- **Renowned Thought Leadership.** Duke has established a track record of high-impact thought leadership in social entrepreneurship and has demonstrated an ability to translate between academic research and practice, and between business and the social sector. For example, the research, publications, and conferences on scaling social impact collaboratively undertaken by CASE and Sanford’s Center for Strategic Philanthropy and Civil Society over the last several years have engaged leading practitioners, philanthropy professionals, and academics in this field. As the centerpiece of this effort, we have partnered with Growth Philanthropy Network to launch a national network dedicated to scaling successful social innovations; the “Social Impact Exchange” includes an annual conference and investment fair, a national business plan competition judged by Duke alumni and other professionals, and several working groups addressing key impediments to scale.
• **Network & Reputation.** Enjoying a strong global reputation and convening power in the field of social entrepreneurship, Duke is respected, credible, and collaborative with social entrepreneurs, funders, intermediaries, policy makers, researchers, and educators in the Triangle and around the world. For example, CASE has collaborated with the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at Oxford University to convene a global research colloquium on social entrepreneurship, alternating the venue between the two universities; dozens of the leading academics in the field attend each year. More recently, Duke was awarded a $10M grant by the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Higher Education Solutions Network to launch the Social Entrepreneurship Accelerator at Duke (SEAD), a development lab to scale up innovations in global health; Duke was one of seven universities chosen from among nearly 500 initial submissions.

In addition to the efforts cited above, Duke is home to a number of other outstanding programs and centers in related fields, including the Duke office of Civic Engagement, Duke Center for International Development, Duke Global Health Institute, the Duke Law Community Enterprise Clinic, and various other initiatives too numerous to elaborate here, but each of which is a recognized leader in their respective fields.

Social innovation and entrepreneurship education is an integral component of the broader innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem at Duke. Situated, as it is, at the intersection of entrepreneurship education and civic engagement, though not exclusive to either, social entrepreneurship education builds upon theories, concepts, and tools of innovation and entrepreneurship while also drawing upon the fields of management, strategy, marketing, philanthropy and nonprofit studies, sociology, social psychology, and other fields. Appealing also to students pursuing civic engagement and service learning, social innovation and entrepreneurship offer a broad canvas upon which faculty can offer dynamic learning opportunities inside the classroom and beyond.

**Through the Duke Innovation & Entrepreneurship Initiative, we are building upon and extending the strengths of the university to create a transformational learning environment to inspire, prepare, and support entrepreneurial leaders and scholars to turn knowledge into action in pursuing innovative, sustainable solutions to the world’s most pressing problems.**

In particular, we aim to achieve the following outcomes:

- Duke students are motivated and prepared to exercise direct influence through their ideas, choices, and actions, on social problems throughout their lives;
- Academic researchers advance the frontiers of knowledge on social innovation and entrepreneurship, and related fields; contribute boldly to the international community of scholarship; and take action upon discoveries and fundamental insights for the benefit of society; and
- Innovative, entrepreneurial organizations have the human capital, knowledge, tools, resources, and supportive ecosystems needed to achieve increased effectiveness, sustainability and scale of impact.

Over the next five years, with careful investment in current assets and strategic expansion, we believe Duke can become even more widely recognized as the premier institution of higher learning for aspiring entrepreneurial leaders, social innovators, and scholars driven by an outrageous ambition to make a difference in the world.