



## The Pathway To Success



### We're For Strategic Planning

#### Goal One:

#### Increase Enrollment and Student Success

Initiative: 1 Initiative Name: Student Government Association

##### *Introduction*

SGA provides opportunities for student engagement, enhancing the co-curricular experience, and contributing to student retention. This is accomplished through leadership development programs, increasing student and school spirit and traditions, and providing funding for increased programming efforts of student organizations through funding of events, programs, and activities. SGA is committed to increasing leadership opportunities for incoming students and to ensuring inclusive and meaningful events for the ISU community. SGA is the recognized student governance unit for all ISU students and as such, is charged with providing representative programming, initiatives, and leadership for enhancing student life and contributing to the co-curricular experience of all students. In addition to legislative and policy responsibilities, SGA provides three primary services through the strategic initiatives: Sycamore Spirit and Traditions (The Forest), Student Organization Funding, and Emerging Leadership Development (Sycamore Leadership Coalition).

##### *Purpose*

SGA maintains a responsibility for increasing student satisfaction, helping students create a sense of connection to the University, and increasing the breadth and depth of on campus programming sponsored by student organizations. The sponsorship of these initiatives has proven to be successful in increasing student involvement in Sycamore athletics, increasing the number of student organizations, and developing a leadership cohort among first year students.

This initiative relates most directly to:

- Increasing student satisfaction and student success
- Contributing to student retention
- Increasing student involvement in student and campus life
- Supporting the development and implementation of on campus programming

##### *Methods*

**Student Organization Funding:** Funding is divided into programs sponsored on a per semester basis. \$37,500 would be allocated for Fall initiatives and \$37,500 would be allocated for Spring initiatives. These fund cultural, social, recreational, professional development, and leadership opportunities sponsored by student organizations.

**Pride and Traditions: The Forest** membership growth exceeds 1,100 members and supports Sycamore Athletics. Sponsoring The Valley @ Memorial Stadium student tailgating attracts students to attend weekend events and get connected to campus spirit initiatives.

**Emerging Leaders Program:** the Sycamore Leadership Coalition is the first-year student leadership cohort (~35 members) who participate in a year-long leadership development program. 8 members attend the annual SGA Conference at Texas A&M University, and the Coalition develops and implements an end-of-the-year celebration for freshman in partnership with residence life.



### *Discussion*

**Sycamore Spirit and Traditions:** Funding to continue growing The Forest as a student spirit entity, and increase student involvement in Sycamore athletics, university traditions, legacy, and icon programs. The Forest creates an increasing exposure to all Sycamore athletics, and will coordinate additional theme nights at games, meet-and-greet with players and coaches, provide incentives for attendance and participation, and aid in keeping students on campus attending those signature events of ISU. This year The Forest will be expanding The Valley @ Memorial Stadium tailgating program and implementing a midnight yell program teaching first year students ISU cheers, points of pride, and celebrations. This will help kick-off the Sesquicentennial Era.

**Student Organization Sponsorship:** Allocating funds to student organizations allows these student clubs to plan, sponsor, and host programs for all ISU students. This allows the growth of student organizations, increase in on-campus programming, and increased involvement of students in social, cultural, recreational, service, honorary, pre-professional, residential, and performing arts based groups. This funding allows for member development, leadership training, travel to professional development conferences, and on-campus activities.

**Emerging Leaders:** Funding provides for a comprehensive first-year student leadership development series to be continued whereby the members of Sycamore Leadership Coalition are identified, trained, and cultivated as student leaders. Funds allow for members to attend national leadership development conferences and upon their return to campus, host sessions and trainings based on the workshops they attended. Further, the funding for Leadership development allows for SGA members to attend state-wide student leader training in Indianapolis (Indiana Coalition of Student Leaders). The Sycamore Leadership Coalition will be working with Campus Life to help plan monthly weekend events which will be specifically directed towards first year students to keep them on campus on the weekends, rather than going home.

### *Summary*

SGA provides opportunities for student engagement, enhances the co-curricular experience, and contributes to student retention. This is accomplished through leadership development programs, increasing student and school spirit and traditions, and providing funding for increased programming efforts of student organizations through funding of events, programs, and activities. SGA is committed to increasing leadership opportunities for incoming students and ensuring inclusive and meaningful events for the ISU community. SGA has goals of student success as well as making sure that all students will receive a positive and healthy college experience. SGA wants all students to call Indiana State University their home away from home.

### *Initiative Chair(s) and Contact Information*

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