

Audit Executive Summary  
Strategic Plan Goal 1  
FY 2012

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**Overview**

Student success is arguably the most important of the Strategic Plan goals—it informs and supports each of the other goals and is critical to the central mission of the university. Although much excellent progress has been made on these initiatives and they all have the potential to positively impact Goal 1, there are several suggestions for revision.

**Initiative 1: Achieving Greater Impact on Student Success through Residential Life**

All of the goals were achieved except for the increase of faculty participating in the dining partner program. Suggestions include creating other opportunities to foster the relationships between students and faculty within the residential environment since these relationships can be important for student success. Connections: Goal 1 Initiative 3.

**Initiative 2: Further Develop Cooperative Programs with Ivy Tech**

Most of the articulation agreements with Ivy Tech have been developed and revised as are most of the degree articulation agreements between ISU and other key community college partners. Two new programs (Engineering Technology and Civil Engineering Technology) were approved this year and articulations have been completed. No data was reported for Actions 6 and 7. These programs and articulation agreements should help us achieve Goal 1 targets in increasing enrollment and student success. Connections: Goal 3

**Initiative 3: Create a Unified Undergraduate Student Success Program**

Progress has been made here. Suggestions include rethinking and strengthening learning communities for first-year students, rethinking the implementation of University 101 and redesign the courses to make them more meaningful for targeted groups of students, expand tutoring and supplemental instruction support and find ways to intrinsically motivate students, and begin the sophomore experience initiative. The development of a University College for first-year students has the potential to enhance student success, but care must be taken to incorporate this initiative into academic programs so that the transition is relatively seamless for students. Connections: This initiative has the potential to affect all other goals. If students are not successful, the other goals are irrelevant.

**Initiative 4: Create “Sycamore Express” One Stop Centers**

These centers are effective in providing service and assistance for currently enrolled students. The online version and the staffed locations are becoming destination centers for the information, assistance, and explanations they provide. Of significant impact has been educating students about any “holds” or “billings” that appear on their student accounts. Areas for growth include marketing to faculty, advisors, and parents/families the services of Sycamore Express, and

transitioning students from a recruitment portal into Sycamore Express as an enrolled student portal. Connections: Goal 1 Initiative 3.

### **Initiative 5: Develop Program for Parents and Families of Students**

The initiative has utilized multiple strategies to connect with its target audience including receptions, orientation seminars, website, and newsletter. The program succeeds in building a sense of community by continually and regularly disseminating beneficial information and creating a sense of connectedness to the university's services. Further work needs to be done on analyzing assessment data so programs can be developed based on parent and family input, feedback, and needs. The Parent & Family Guide needs to be completed and made available, possibly online for Summer 2012 Orientation. Connections: Goal 1 Initiative 6.

### **Initiative 6: Increase Early Outreach to Students in the Region**

Actions under Initiative 6 adopted a variety of approaches in reaching out to high, middle and elementary school students including various on-campus programs (e.g., Discover ISU), programs at targeted schools (e.g., Dual Credit and Adopt a Classroom), programs with bounded implementation time scope (e.g., Sibling Program), and programs with on-going contact/communication (e.g., Communication Campaign). To continue advancing this Initiative, it is recommended to devise actions directly targeting those with significant influence on students' college choice (teachers, counselors, school administrators, and parents) and to more heavily target distance learners. Connections: Goal 1 Initiatives 2 and 5.

### **Initiative 8: Enhance Graduate Education at ISU**

This has the potential to increase graduate student enrollment and graduate students are also more mature students with clear set of goals and demonstrated previous academic success. Suggestions include using the expertise of current faculty who come from abroad and to use the international connections of all faculty in improving the recruitment of international students. Connections: Goal 1 Initiative 3.

### **Initiative 9: Enhance the Gathering and Use of Information to Advance ISU's Strategic Priorities**

The actions for this initiative are right on timeline targets. Data storage has been designed and data is being inputted. The next steps are to use this data in a meaningful way to enhance student success at ISU and other strategic priorities. Connections: Goals 1, 2, and 3.

### **Initiative 10: Create a Comprehensive Wellness Program**

Of priority, the wellness mini-grant program was implemented which provided funding for seven health and wellness , a graduate assistant was hired to advance the Sycamore Wellness Program, a faculty fellow was selected to lead research initiatives, Student Health Promotions has conducted 87 seminars (up from 50 in Year 2) and the Wellness Bash was attended by 800 participants (an increase in 200 attendees from Year 2). Attention needs to be directed at communicating a wellness campaign to faculty and staff and increasing participation from this population. Connections: Goal 1 Initiatives 1, 3, 7

**Initiative 11: Develop a Comprehensive Retention Program for African American Cultural Center to Assist Both Students and Parents – ISUceed Program**

The African American Cultural Center successfully engaged 80 parents during Summer Orientation, with a 98% positive response rate that the “ISUceed program could help their student be successful.” 102 students initially enrolled in the Fall ISUceed Scholars Program, and 98 are enrolled effective March 2012. A total of 10 graduate retention counselors were hired to work directly with the students enrolled in the program. While 70 students remain “in good academic standing,” there are still approximately 30% of the students who are either no longer enrolled or facing academic probation. Connections: Goal 1 Initiatives 5 and 6. Goals 2 and 5.