



We're For Strategic Planning

Goal Two:

Advance Experiential Learning

Initiative: 1 Initiative Name: Infuse experiential learning as a core component in all academic programs

Introduction

This initiative links travel and study for students and faculty. The program provides support for faculty-led travel experiences in the United States. A separate initiative provides funding for international travel experiences. All of the travel experiences that are funded directly link the travel experience to student outcomes.

Purpose

To increase the number of students traveling for courses in the United States.

To enhance individual courses and programs through travel as experiential learning.

Methods

We have established a competitive application process for domestic travel study programs. Faculty members wanting to take students outside the classroom can apply for support in the fall and spring semesters. These proposals are reviewed by faculty committees based on the criteria established by the strategic planning committee



Discussion

Domestic travel experiences are enhancing experiential learning in multiple ways. The growing number of students that complete undergraduate research projects have benefitted by being able to travel to professional meetings to present their work. Students also have been able to conduct site-based research through their travel experiences. Other students have been able to travel to interact with professionals and prospective employers in their fields. The travel program also has allowed us to extend our community service efforts into communities outside of west-central Indiana.

The demand for support for these kinds of experiences has continued to grow. During the 2013-14 AY we limited the amount of support that we were able to provide to faculty due to the high interest in the program. We have had requests for support for summer classes, but were unable to support those due to the demand during the AY.

Summary

The initiative was very successful last year. In 2013-14 we were able to support 23 domestic travel study trips that involved 436 students. A wide range of experiences, including one-day and multi-day trips, were supported.

Initiative Chair(s) and Contact Information

Nancy Rogers, Center for Community Engagement, nancy.rogers@indstate.edu

Heather Miklozek, Center for Community Engagement, heather.miklozek@indstate.edu