



## We're For Strategic Planning

### **Goal Two:**

#### **Advance Experiential Learning**

**Initiative:** 1.B **Initiative Name:** Center for Student Research and Creativity

#### *Introduction*

The Center for Student Research and Creativity (CSRC) was formally created in mid August 2011 with the appointment of Dr. Tom Steiger as Director. Jenifer Pollom, Administrative Assistant for the CSRC, began Jan. 3, 2012. The office complex is located in Suite 329 Dreiser Hall and is fully functioning as a paperless office. In FY2014 the CSRC funded 372 students, more than twice the benchmark goal for Fall 2014, Attendance at Expositum reached 626, a 72% increase over last years attendance. Several new initiatives begun in 2013 seem to be paying off and becoming regular summer programs.

#### *Purpose*

Research and creativity are widely recognized as a key component of experiential learning. The mission of Indiana State University's Center for Student Research and Creativity is to institutionalize student research and creativity, focusing primarily on the undergraduate experience. The Center will serve as a clearinghouse for information, support, coordination, and communication for all student research and creative activities

#### *Methods*

Provide support for student and faculty travel for UG research and creativity; provide support for student travel for research and creativity presentations; provide support for research and creativity expenses (not travel); support projects that create opportunities for summer REU like experiences; provide student wages to pay UGs for work on research/creative projects, (could even be for unpaid internships in the community if appropriate); offer faculty development opportunities to facilitate the incorporation of undergraduate research into classes, as part of major/minor requirements, and across curricula. Develop a campus culture in which UG student research and creativity is ongoing from day one to commencement.



### *Discussion*

The CSRC continues to exceed its benchmark goals. More importantly is the increasing evidence of a cultural change at ISU as undergraduate research becomes institutionalized.

The benchmarks used by the CSRC focus on the number of students funded by the CSRC. However, others are beginning to support undergraduate research both financially and in the curriculum. This is why the CSRC has added two new benchmarks, "increase in number of students conducting undergraduate research not funded by CSRC/SURE" and "student credit hours generated by undergraduate research/creativity."

The SURF (Sycamore Undergraduate Research Fellowship) is an excellent example.. The CSRC proposed this concept to Scholarships and 12 SURFs were offered to incoming students in Fall 2014. Eleven accepted. We are expecting 12 in Fall 2015. Also, a new summer initiative was launched with no CSRC financial support, SUDSE (Summer Undergraduate Diversity and Sustainability Experience). Another measure of the cultural change is students conducting undergraduate research/creative projects for academic credit. In essence these are independent studies or "senior theses." Two hundred thirty (230) students engaged in undergraduate research outside of CSRC and SURE funding. This figure is an undercount as a more systematic count is needed that what was performed here. Two hundred twelve (212) students conducted research in courses for students performing independent research projects. This reflects just six departments reporting and accounts for 555 student credit hours for FY2015.

Our benchmark goal for percent of graduating seniors receiving funding from the CSRC was 6%. We funded 8.14%. The number of students receiving support from the CSRC exceeded the benchmark goal by 97. Four hundred seventy six (476) students presented in research showcases/professional presentations in FY2015. Eight hundred ninety six (896) people attended Exposium.

### *Summary*

The CSRC has established the basic organizational processes to carry out its mission to institutionalize undergraduate research and creative projects across the undergraduate experience. Ending its second full year, the CSRC is making progress in becoming part of the research landscape and in supporting students to pursue experiential learning through research and creative performance. The CSRC introduced seven initiatives last year, five are paying off. Those need to be nurtured, tweaked, and then reviewed. A gaping hole exists in working with the Foundation to support this strategic initiative. Must find some support for ReCOH from the College of Arts and Sciences and the Foundation. These initiatives, with adequate funding, will be instrumental in CSRC meetings its benchmarks over the next two years.

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

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