

Goal Two Advance Experiential Learning Introduction

The primary focus of this goal is to ensure that every student participates in a significant experiential learning activity in order to complete the requirements for their major. Following is a definition of experiential learning developed by the Experiential Learning Planning Committee in 2004:

Experiential learning, at its core, is operationalized by engaging students in learning through sequential exposure to challenging, compelling, and enriching activities conducted in appropriate settings. It integrates development of knowledge, skills, and dispositions, and fosters application of methods of critical inquiry. It engages students in personal reflection in order to organize, interpret, and bring meaning and coherence to their learning experience.

Implementation teams associated with this initiative are focused on creating new or improving current structures, programs, or activities that support faculty, staff, and student efforts to provide experiential learning activities. Academic programs and administrative units that provide experiential learning opportunities to our students will continue to have responsibility for determining the types of experiential learning activities that are appropriate for their students.

Initiatives

Goal two includes six initiatives. The first initiative, *Infuse Experiential Learning as a Core Component of All Academic Programs*, includes several components or sub-initiatives. The second initiative includes two components: *Apply the Science of Learning to the Learning of Science* and *Develop a Climate Action Plan*. The remaining initiatives are focused on much more specific activities. These initiatives include: *Coordinate and Elevate Leadership Studies*, *Enhance Legacy Programs and Create Icon Services and Programs*, *Enhance the Co-Curricular Experience and the Value of Participation*, and *Student Government Association*. The following section provides an update of the actions of each of the initiative teams.

Initiative 1 – Infuse Experiential Learning as a Core Component of All Academic Programs – Co-Chairs: Harriet Hudson, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences and Chris Olsen, Chair, Department of History

This Initiative Team is currently working on the following action items:

- Supporting opportunities for international study abroad through the provision of grants to students to help offset the cost of air travel and other expenses. Ten grants were provided in the fall and five were provided in the spring.

- Supporting other types of travel study through grants to faculty for international and domestic, short-term travel experiences that are integrated with academic courses. In December, the Travel Study sub-committee reviewed and approved 11 international and 4 domestic travel proposals from faculty members representing all colleges at ISU.
- Developing an experiential learning summer workshop for faculty.
- Holding two public forums for faculty and students interested in enhancing ISU's commitment to undergraduate research. Thirty-five faculty attended one or both of two forums held in November.

Next steps for this team include exploring the possibility of creating an undergraduate research center.

Initiative 2 – Applying the Science of Learning to the Learning of Science, Chair: Jim Speer, Department of Environmental and Earth Sciences

This initiative is associated with the national SENCER project. SENCER, Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities, is a National Science Foundation funded project that aims to improve undergraduate STEM education by linking learning to critical civic questions. Highlights of this initiative include:

- The ISU SENCER team attended the SENCER Summer Institute 2010 which allowed them to apply for another \$3000 implementation award from SENCER. The grant was awarded to present a Sustainability Speaker series during Spring 2011.
- The team is continuing evaluation of SENCER courses. Sixteen courses have been evaluated using the *Student Assessment of Learning Gains*. The results of this assessment will be presented at the DC SENCER symposium in March 2011.
- A SENCER regional workshop was held on campus during September 2010. Forty-nine individuals attended the regional conference. Institutions that were represented include: ISU, Butler, Eastern Illinois University, Indiana Campus Compact, Vigo County School Corporation, Northeastern Illinois University, University of Dayton, Harold Washington College, and Harrisburg University of Science and Technology.

Initiative 2b – Climate Action Plan

In December 2010, the team developed and administered a baseline sustainability survey which was taken by 515 students, faculty, and staff. The survey will be administered at the end of the Spring semester to determine if Sustainability programming has changed student behavior and attitudes about sustainability. Programming for this initiative includes Recycle Mania and Energy Conservation competitions.

The team also is completing second round analysis of ISU's carbon footprint. This report will be completed in May 2011.

Initiative 3 – Coordinate and Elevate Leadership Studies –Chair: Denise Collins, Department of Educational Leadership, Administration, and Foundations

The leadership studies team has been quite active over the past year. Their accomplishments include the following:

- An inventory of current leadership activities has been completed by this initiative team. Information gleaned from the inventory is included on the Leadership Consortium website: <http://www.indstate.edu/leadership/>.
- Several team members made site visits to higher education institutions in Virginia during the summer.
- A proposed structure for the Leadership Consortium has been developed and presented to the President.
- Campus leadership workshops were held in August and January. Both were well attended by students, faculty, and staff.

Initiative 4 – Enhance Legacy Programs and Create Icon Services and Programs – Chair: Al Perone, Deans of Students Office

A team for this new initiative was developed and met for the first time on October 12. The goal of this strategic initiative is to enhance legacy programs and develop icon programs and services that meet the needs of today's students. Legacy Programs are described as programs that have already been established at Indiana State University. This includes current programs as well as discontinued programs. Icon Programs are described as new and innovative programs that are not currently programs at Indiana State University.

After completing a survey of student interest, the committee has proposed focusing on the following programs:

ICON

- FY 2011 Programs - Community Resource Guide, Pool Events
- FY 2012 Program - Commuter Programs (carpool, laptop, lunch programs, Basic Auto repair skills
- FY 2013 Program - Arts programs (Plays, Music Poetry)
- FY 2014 Program - Main Quad Development

LEGACY

- FY 2011 Program - Performing Arts Series (increasing Student Representation on the committee)
- FY 2012 Programs - Purchase Tandem Race Bicycles, Provide Student Legal Services, Intercollegiate Athletic Support

- FY 2013 Program - Commencement (student Participation as well as celebrating a commencement week)
- FY 2014 Program - Field Campus Improvements (Marketing and Building)

Initiative 5 – Enhance the Co-Curricular Experience and the Value of Participation – Chair: Nolan Davis, Student Affairs

The purpose of this new initiative is to utilize technology and new procedures to increase the value of student involvement on campus. The goals of the methods identified by the initiative are to enhance the student’s understanding of both involvement options and the value campus involvement to their development. Additionally, the university will provide multiple forms of enhanced recognition of student co-curricular achievements.

The committee will implement the following services:

- Co-Curricular Record – Several administrative units are participating in recording data that can be used for a permanent co-curricular record. Pilot work will be completed in late spring.
- Student Passport System – The Student Passport System will serve as a record of involvement across an array of campus activities to encourage further engagement; and (2) will include a system of certifications with public rewards and prizes to motivate students. The core parts of the program include a computer program that allows students to record their participation and a staff organized and managed set of events and certificates.
- Student Organization Database & Management - OrgSync a student organization data management platform has been purchased.

Initiative 6 – Student Government – Chair: Steven Flowers, Student Government Association

Student Government's new initiatives focus on experiential learning and enhancing the student experience. We hope to utilize previously understaffed projects as well as create new projects in order to increase Student Government's visibility. Further, through outreach and revitalizing aspects of Student Government, students will have the opportunity to gain firsthand experience programming, leading, and serving others. Programs such as Indiana Coalition of Student Leaders will allow for our campus to reach out to other universities across the state and establish partnerships that will last long into the future. Inshape ISU as well as Blue Crew work to establish pride in our campus, knowledge of campus resources and aim to provide students with the best experience possible. Newly established Student Media Services as well as the SGA Awareness Campaign and the Student Organization funding aim to provide experiential learning for students. These initiatives are important to the functions and goals of Student Government.

Following is a summary of the achievements associated with this initiative:

- A letter has been drafted to invite other Indiana schools to participate in a newly formed

Indiana Coalition of Student Leaders.

- InShape ISU has formed a committee to discuss additional innovative ways to motivate students to be healthy and showcase programs that already exist on campus.
- Student Government has launched a public awareness campaign.
- Student Media Services was launched to provide graphic design services to student organizations.
- Student Government has created a grant program for student organizations that provides three separate types of grants.
- The Sycamore Spirit initiative has been launched to increase campus pride. Blue Fridays, Blue Crew, and the t-shirt exchange have been successful activities associated with this initiative.