

**Strategic Plan - Goal 3: Enhance Community Engagement**  
**Executive Summary of the Audit Review**  
**March 26, 2012**

A review was conducted of the three initiatives making up Goal 3 by interviewing the Implementation Chair and the Initiative Chairs along with a review of the initiative work plans and materials provided by the Initiative Chairs.

Overall, the implementation of Goal 3 is moving forward in an effective manner. All three implementation chairs are actively engaged in the work of the goal; enhancing community engagement. As one would expect, the various action items of each initiative have various levels of current success, but the team is making good progress with all three initiatives and is on track to fulfilling the goals and benchmarks. Clearly, ISU is making effective progress toward fulfilling its community engagement goals.

Past Goal Three audits have expressed some concern that the goal's objectives, initiatives and action items don't really match very well. Others are essentially completed. It is probably time to reconsider some of the objectives and actions in Goal 3 with an eye toward removing or significantly revising some, such as the development of an expanded business incubation program (part of Initiative 1), transforming Master's in Sports Management for on-line delivery (part of Initiative 2), and the identification of alternative locations for ISU in Indianapolis part of Initiative 3). It is clear in talking with the implementation chairs and reviewing the materials they provided that good progress is being made on most of the goal objectives. Progress on the other objectives, increasing the number of businesses served by ISU and the number of jobs created by businesses in the incubator is less clear. The necessary information to "audit" these particular objectives was not available for review.

Overall, efforts to enhance community engagement are moving forward. The proportion of ISU faculty, staff, and students who engage in significant community engagement projects is increasing in line with goals and seems to be moving forward in a way that will allow for on schedule attainment of the goal's benchmarks.

**Goal 3 Initiative Action Audit**

**Initiative One Actions**

1. Community Engagement/Experiential Learning Presentations – This action is on schedule with 8 presentations being made at national and regional conferences.
2. Connection to the Riverfront – Several faculty and their students are engaged with the riverfront, but the grant program has not yet started and the plans for the Riverfront Science and Technology Center is not yet in process. It is recommended that a group of faculty with experience in these kinds of education centers be formed to help take this proposal forward. It is further recommended that a Faculty Fellow position be created to coordinate ISU's Riverscape activity as this is a high potential goal both in terms of community engagement and experiential learning.
3. Organizational structure – The organizational structure for community engagement is mostly completed. The Career Center has redone its website, installed a new software system, and is working on filling 4 open positions.

4. Staff policy to encourage community engagement – This policy has been quite successful. Fiscal year 2011 had 60 support staff volunteering 384 hours and 15 monthly employees contributing 108 volunteer hours. This volunteerism has increased to 61 support staff (377 hours) and 55 monthly employees (332 hours) for the 7/1/11 – 2/29/12 period. This rate of volunteerism is on schedule.
5. Expanded business incubation program – The business incubation program is currently on hold. A reassessment of this goal is needed in light of the lack of financial support from ISU's partners.
6. Incorporate alumni into ISU's community engagement activities – this action is behind schedule but an extensive survey of graduates is planned for the late summer or early fall. Increased attention should be given to this action dependent on the results of the survey.
7. Increased businesses served – The student workers area in the Business Engagement Center is under development and the first 3 students have been identified. Continued monitoring is recommended as this action gets underway.
8. Ryves Neighborhood Program – This activity is progressing very well, there has been a good response from across campus and is on schedule. As of 2/20/12, 8 projects have received mini-grants under this program involving more than 120 students. ISU has committed to a Habitat house in the area.
9. Service learning scholars program – Three courses for this program are working their way through the curricular approval process. Seven students have been selected to participate in the pilot this spring and students are being recruited for next year's full class. It is recommended that the faculty fellow position for coordinating the service learning program be put into the baseline budget in order to assure that the position is ongoing as this position is required for the UNIV service learning courses.
10. Student mini-grant program – This program needs more effort, as only 3 grants have been awarded. The work with Ryves Neighborhood and a new program with McLean Alternative High School should help increase grant applications.
11. Early career and professional experience program – is on hold.

#### **Initiative Two Actions**

1. Adult career education degree program – As of spring 2012 there were 57 ACE majors enrolled. The fall '11 to spring '12 retention rate was 88%. This action is on schedule.
2. Degree completion initiative – This initiative is progressing as scheduled.
3. Foundational Studies for distance education students – The expected number of faculty was recruited for training this fall, but attrition has been higher than expected, with only 9 of the 14 completing training and putting FS courses online. However, the reasons for attrition has been addressed and the program is on schedule.
4. Transform MS in Sports Management for online delivery – Completed.

#### **Initiative Three Actions**

1. Special Olympics – There is a high level of involvement at ISU with the Special Olympics which has been a high profile program for ISU. The sponsorship of the Special Olympics recognition dinner is fairly recent and its effectiveness at raising the ISU's profile in the state needs to be assessed.

2. Indianapolis events mailer and website – This program is currently on hold and needs to be reassessed in terms of its mailing list and website design.
3. Assessment of alternative locations in Indianapolis – No further action on this is needed at this time.
4. Professional MBA program – The first class of 12 students is enrolled this year and the SCOB is recruiting for the fall 2012 class. Assessment of this program should be ongoing.
5. Indianapolis Day of Service – This program has been postponed from September to March 31. An assessment of the program after its conclusion is needed to assess its ongoing viability.
6. Black Expo – This has been a long standing event for ISU and it continues to provide an effective level of exposure in Indianapolis and throughout the state.
7. Fiesta Indianapolis – This is a new event for ISU. Recruitment staff has Spanish speakers and this appears to be a good event for ISU but an evaluation of the effectiveness of the event is needed.