

Goal Three Enhance Community Engagement

Introduction

The focus of this goal is to foster the engagement of students, faculty, and staff in the life of our communities and in pursuits improving their economic and social well-being. Following is a definition of community engagement developed by the community engagement planning committee in 2004:

Community engagement is the development of collaborative partnerships between education, business, social services, and government that contribute to the academic mission of the University and directly benefit the community. Community engagement at Indiana State University includes activities in the teaching, research, and service endeavors of faculty, students, and staff. Examples of community engagement activities include:

Technical assistance and applied research to help increase understanding of a local or regional problem or test solutions for that problem.

Lectures, seminars, and other public forum that provide a neutral place to explore community issues.

Extension of learning beyond the University walls and into the community.

Enriching the cultural life of the community.

Service, including internships and service-learning, that directly benefits the public.

Economic development initiatives, including technology transfer and support for small businesses.

Involvement of community members in planning and decision making activities of the University.

Implementation teams associated with this initiative are focused on creating new or improving current structures, programs, or activities that support faculty, staff, and student community engagement activities. Academic programs and administrative units involved in community engagement will continue to have responsibility for determining the communities with which they engage and types of engagement activities that are appropriate for their student, faculty, staff, and external partners.

Initiatives

Goal three includes three initiatives. The first two initiatives, create a coordinated community engagement program and expand distance education offerings, include several components or sub-initiatives and expected outcomes. The third initiative, enhance the visibility of ISU in Indianapolis, is more focused. The following section provides an update of the actions of each of the initiative teams.

Initiative 1 – Create a Coordinated Community Engagement Program, Chair: Nancy Rogers, Associate Vice President for Community Engagement and Experiential Learning

This implementation team has completed or is working on the following action items:

Create an organizational structure that supports community engagement. An Associate Vice President of Community Engagement and Experiential Learning position was created with the intention of moving offices/programs that focus on community engagement and experiential learning into a common supervisory area.

Develop expanded business incubation program. In collaboration with the Rural Health Innovation Collaborative, a feasibility study of developing an expanded business incubator or accelerator is being conducted.

Increase the percentage of courses with a civic commitment and/or service-learning component. Each college completed an inventory of existing courses which currently include a community engagement and/or service-learning component. This inventory will provide baseline information to help determine how many programs and students currently are participating in course-based experiences.

Connect ISU to the Riverfront. An inter-disciplinary group of faculty have drafted a proposal for the Riverfront Science and Technology Center.

Incorporate alumni into community engagement activities. This sub-committee has made several recommendations that include coordinating community service activities through alumni clubs, strengthening connections between alumni and the Career Center, and increasing participation of alumni in OLLI.

Develop a staff policy that encourages community engagement. A policy has been drafted by Human Resources.

Develop a Service-Learning Scholars program. This program will be a two-year experience featuring the completion of service-learning designated coursework, an on-going process of self-reflection on the meaning of service, and the direct application of one's content major to specific community needs through a sustainable service project.

Develop a class legacy project. A pilot project is being conducted during the Spring 2010 term. Each freshman class will identify a sustainable service project that they will support throughout their first year.

Support early career/professional experience. This sub-committee is investigating where this type of experience is best included in the curriculum.

Initiative 2 – Expand Distance Education, Chair: Marcia Miller, Associate Dean, College of Nursing, Health, and Human Services

This initiative includes the following action items:

The Dean of Extended Learning search process has been completed. Dr. Kenneth Brauchle will join the ISU staff on July 1, 2010 to begin this position.

The College of Technology has developed a proposal for an adult degree completion program in Adult and Career Education. The proposal is moving through the curriculum review process.

The Dean of Extended Learning and Coordinator of General Education will work together to conduct an assessment of the number of available seats for distance students in Foundational Studies courses to determine the need for expansion of online offerings and to reduce the number of ISU students taking courses from ICN.

The implementation team will request from the Dean of Extended Learning a white paper report that explores the potential of advance credit online courses for high school students and only charging the “credit by examination” fee for college credit.

The Corrections Education Program is working on offering a B.S. in the Terre Haute Federal facility. In addition, they have strengthened recruitment efforts at the other facilities in order to reach their goal of 600 students by 2012.

Improved coordination of continuing education and non-credit activities is sought through implementation of new scheduling, registration, and payment software. During the 2010-11 AY the Office of Continuing Education will work with the academic Deans to improve coordination between that office and the colleges.

The Dean of Extended Learning will work with the academic Deans to evaluate the assessment plans and results for online programs.

Initiative 3 – Enhance the Visibility of ISU in Indianapolis, Chair: Tara Singer, Assistant Vice President, Communications and Marketing

This implementation team has identified several activities that will improve visibility in Indianapolis. The ISU Foundation, Networks, and Enrollment Management now share a consolidated office space in downtown Indianapolis. Recommendations regarding future priorities for office space and additional programmable space in Indianapolis will be made this spring. The College of Business has proposed an MBA program to be offered in Hendricks County to the Commission on Higher Education. The program is currently awaiting approval. A variety of campus-coordinated events will be held in Indianapolis over the next year. These include the annual Philanthropy Awards event and a proposed statehouse event. The team also has recommended partnering with one or two philanthropic organizations in Indianapolis for collaboration on service projects and other engagement activities. Finally, the Office of Communications and Marketing is developing a plan to generate media attention for ISU in the Indianapolis market.