

## **Strategic Plan Budget Carryover Justification for FY 2010 and Request for FY 2011**

### **Goal 2: Experiential Learning**

#### **Initiative 2: Applying the Science of Learning to the Learning of Science**

**Submitted by Jim Speer (Initiative Chair)**

#### **SENCER at ISU**

Indiana State University has adopted the Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities (SENCER) Teaching Model which fits well with our strengths in experiential learning and community engagement. Our committee is working hard to promote the SENCER Teaching Model at ISU and requests the following budget to meet the goal of making our STEM education classes more engaging and to provide students with a deeper learning experience across all disciplines using this interdisciplinary approach.

The SENCER Teaching Model promotes project-based learning and community engagement to engage students in a meaningful education. The funds that we are requesting will provide faculty development workshops, funds to convert classes to this interactive and interdisciplinary model that incorporates community engagement, and to fund a student SENCER team that uses their learned skills from their disparate majors to bring SENCER alive at ISU. Most of the requested funds will go to undergraduate and graduate student wages and provide funds for them to travel to conferences to present the work that they are doing at ISU. These travel funds will also help other students participating in these classes to present their findings at conferences and to gain this professional experience that they can put on their resumes.

Previous funds for this initiative have enabled us to engage 50 faculty and staff in faculty development workshops. Approximately 10 of these faculty, staff, and students will be traveling to the SENCER Summer Institute in Asheville North Carolina this summer to learn about this teaching model and to present the work that ISU has done over the past year. We currently have four undergraduates hired from the previous year's funds and one graduate student that is just starting this summer. These students have presented at the Washington DC Symposium in April, attended the Summer Institute last summer in Chicago, and will be attending the Summer Institute this summer. As the faculty and staff bring this model to campus, the student SENCER team puts the energy into the campus effort to provide this project-based learning around civic issues. Our current student workers are providing the student leadership that is needed to engage the rest of the student community in these engaging classes.

Initiative 2 is working to meet three of the four benchmarks listed under goal 2. These benchmarks are the following:

- by 2014, increase the percentage of students who participate in internships, practicums, and field experiences before graduation to 100 percent;
- by 2014, increase the percentage of degree programs with a required significant experiential learning component to 100 percent;

- increase the participation in experiential learning each year, until 100 percent of ISU students engage in at least one significant field experience within their major before graduation;

We are approaching this from a different direction by incorporating field experiences into the foundational studies classes have been SENCERized and through major courses using this teaching model. Furthermore, these classes also emphasize community engagement around civic issues that grab the interest of the students such as global climate change, environmental issues, the Riverscape, and ISU campus life itself.

We are also extensively studying the effect of these classes through an innovative assessment tool called the Student Assessment of Learning Gains (SALG). Each SENCER class completes this extra assessment survey of the students' gains and understanding of larger issues such as critical thinking and importance of civic issues. This work is building to the point where we will better understand how our students learn and what engages them in their education which will result in student retention and success (see benchmarks under **Goal 1** as well).

## **FY2010 Carryover Budget Justification**

Our initiative requested \$76,000 from the strategic plan for the Fiscal Year 2010. We only received those funds in March of 2010, so have only spent \$13,000 to date. We plan to use the remaining \$63,000 for our initial plans proposed in Fiscal Year 2010 which will reduce our monetary needs for Fiscal Year 2011. Some of our requested funds will be spent by the end of August 2010.

**Line 5, faculty salary.** Two faculty have been granted \$3,000 each to turn their courses into SENCER courses. That \$6,000 in faculty salaries will be expended by the end of August. The remaining \$9,000 remains available for faculty to convert their courses in FY 2011.

**Lines 21, 25, 33-35 Student Stipends, Wages, and Tuition Waiver.** Because of our start in March, we were not able to hire a graduate student to work on the SENCER student team, but we were able to search for and hire a graduate student for the coming year. The carryover funds for tuition and salary for the graduate student will be used in FY 2011. We have now been able to recruit a graduate student (Ross Alexander: BS in Biology from Hanover College) who will be employed as the graduate student leader of the SENCER student team.

We were also able to employ four undergraduate students for part of the Spring 2010 term and summer, which amounted to the largest part of the budget that we were able to use in FY 2010. The remaining \$11,500 will be used in the coming year for undergraduate salary and now that we have a functioning student leadership team, we will be requesting more funds for FY 2011 to complete that team.

**Line 40 Supplies.** We have \$4,000 remaining in supplies for SENCER classes. We plan to use these funds to purchase supplies needed for those classes to make them more interactive and hands on.

**Line 41 Faculty Development Workshops, Guest Speakers, and Promotional Material.** Some of the funds (\$4,000) have been committed to travel to the SENCER Summer Institute have been committed so far and the remaining \$6,000 will be spent by the end of August. This Faculty Development Workshop is hosted by the national SENCER organization is an annual commitment for maintaining our connections with this group and for demonstrating the advances that ISU has achieved. We will be requesting more funds in FY2011 for the SENCER Summer Institute for the summer of 2011 so that we can plan for this conference. We have a team of 9 people attending this conference in Asheville North Carolina from July 29-August 2nd, so the \$10,000 will be spent by the end of the summer.

**Lines 46, Speakers for SENCER Classes.** We still have \$2,000 available for honorariums to bring in speakers for SENCER classes at ISU. We plan to use these funds in FY 2011 for this purpose.

This Fiscal Year 2010 budget shows how the previously awarded funds will be used and the Fiscal Year 2011 budget (below) shows the further funds that we are requesting for this coming year.

## **FY2011 Budget Justification**

All faculty salary for course revisions, graduate student funding, and half of the undergraduate funding will come from carryover funds from FY 2010. Additional funds are requested for undergraduate salary, supplies, faculty development workshops, and travel for FY 2011 as itemized below.

**Line 33 and 34 Undergraduate Wage.** The student leadership team for the SENCER initiative has been noted by many organizations to be an innovative way to get students involved in their education and to provide experiential learning through the strategic plan. This student leadership team is also integral to accomplishing many of the benchmarks for this goal. Some of the specific advantages are having students be proactive in getting other students excited about project-based learning and community engagement in their classes. Extra funds are requested for student wages so that we can ensure to have a full five student member team where each student is bringing the skills of their major to advancing SENCER classes at ISU. An additional \$17,280 funds are requested for student wages.

**Line 40 Supplies.** Funds are requested for new equipment and supplies that will be needed in SENCER classes. This equipment will enable students to have hands-on technology that they can use in SENCER classes. This will make the classes more meaningful to the students as they are trained in 21<sup>st</sup> century technology skills, make the classes more attractive to faculty as funds are available for the needs of these classes, and will benefit the entire campus community with new technology active labs on campus that all students can learn from.

**Line 41 Faculty Development Workshops, Guest Speakers, and Promotional Material.** We plan to continue to conduct faculty development workshops to engage more faculty in offering these types of classes. David Burns who is the director for the national SENCER office has offered to come to ISU in the Fall to host a faculty development workshop for ISU and the surrounding colleges to talk about this teaching model (this type of workshop that got ISU originally involved in SENCER when Jim Speer attended one at Butler University in December 2008). We also have a Public Relations student working to promote our SENCER classes at ISU and need funds for promotional materials.

**Lines 43 and 44 Travel.** ISU is gaining a national reputation for the speed and quality that we have picked up this teaching model. We are able to spread the work that we are doing to the rest of the nation through the SENCER Summer Institute and request funds to send faculty, staff, and student to this conference. We also plan to send our SENCER student team and students in SENCER classes to national conferences to present their original research that they are conducting around this teaching model and in these classes.

Goal 2, Initiative 2 received funds for FY 2010 to **search for a Science Education faculty member** who would be a grant writer and will study our work in our SENCER classes to improve science education at the college level at ISU. These funds were only approved in March which led to a failed search that ended on May 10<sup>th</sup>. We would like to request that these funds be continued to next year so that we can promote a full faculty search over the 2010-2011 academic year. No new funds are requested for this search, but we would like to carry forward the already approved funds from last fiscal year.