

Strategic Plan – Initiative Work Plan FY2016

Initiative Name: American Democracy Project

Date 5/9/2015

Goal # 3

Goal Chair(s) Nancy Rogers

Initiative # 3

Initiative Chair(s) Carly Schmitt

Thesis Statement The mission of the American Democracy Project is to produce the next generation of civically-minded citizens who leave the University engaged in their communities.

1. Introduction/Background – What?

The American Democracy Project is a multi-campus initiative established in 2003 by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). ISU joined this initiative at its inception, and today there are over 250 colleges and universities that feature ADP on its campuses. Through programming, celebrations of special events (e.g., Constitution Day, 9/11 Day or Service), and other activities, ADP is geared toward engaging today's youth in citizenship.

2. Proposal/Purpose/Justification – Why?

At ISU, ADP has a variety of programming geared towards enhancing civic awareness and engagement for students. This past year, ADP's focus has been on expanding programming and coordinating with other campus units to expand the reach of ADP's activities to the broader campus community. We have also begun to make this initiative more student-directed with a graduate student heading-up a Student Advisory Board. In order to increase programming and ADP's presence on ISU's campus, incorporation to the Strategic Plan assists ADP in having the necessary institutional support to continue with its mission.

3. Discussion of Past Years Results – Benchmark Successes?

Enhanced individual and overall student participation in ADP programming

ADP exceeded its target of reaching 1200 individual ISU students this academic year. In fact, 1292 individual ISU students participated in ADP events and programming over the course of the spring and fall semesters—nearly 250 more students than the previous academic year. Many of these students attended more than one event as there were 2212 student participants overall this academic year. This continued increase in student involvement is due to a number of factors. First, ADP has become a student-driven effort whereby ADP Student Advisory Board members work together to develop, plan, and implement a large number of events. Thus, the events and the topics addressed in these events are things that their peers want to engage in. Second, we are consistently working to develop relationships and undergo collaborations with other entities across campus. In doing so, ADP reaches a broader audience.

Increased student and larger campus community representation at the ISU Day at the Indiana Statehouse

The annual Statehouse trip was a huge success this year. In addition to over 100 students representing over 20 campus units taking part in this trip, the students met with a large number of state legislators (at least 35), Governor Pence, and Superintendent Ritz. The students also were recognized on the floor of both chambers in the state legislature. This was another great opportunity for ISU students to meet with policymakers, and for ISU to showcase our greatest asset—our students—to state policymakers. In Summer 2014, three ADP representatives (1 faculty and two students) presented on a panel at the American Democracy Project and The Democracy Commitment Annual Meeting. This presentation, *Marching on the Statehouse: Students at the Indiana General Assembly*, discussed ADP's Statehouse trip and shared with representatives from other

Strategic Plan – Initiative Work Plan FY2016

campuses how they, too, might organize and facilitate a student engagement/lobbying day at their respective Statehouses.

Participation in National Service Days

In recognition of September 11, 2001, ADP co-sponsored a documentary on this tragedy. Along with this, the event also featured a stop-and-serve for students to send words of encouragement to first responders in the community.

Increased Collaborations with Campus Partners

In addition to expanding the number of students participating in ADP programming, ADP also expanded its network of collaborators. We made explicit efforts to further develop relationships with our collaborators, including bringing in new ones. For example, ADP co-sponsored a Veterans Day Movie, *Lone Survivor*, with ISU Veterans Services. Over seventy ISU students attended this event. This is but one example of the cross-campus collaborations ADP is a part of during the academic year.

4. Work Plan, Next Fiscal Year – Action Steps – Process – How?

In the next year we plan to expand and build upon ADP's achievements. Much of this requires greater cross-campus partnerships, a central component ADP's success.

- ADP will be working next academic year to reach a larger audience across campus in both the number of students participating in our programming and the number of collaborations with other campus units. The coordinator of ADP is working to connect with various campus entities to bring about new programming with other parts of campus. ADP staff will be making connections with other students from campus organizations to develop and implement programming. Further, we will continue to cultivate relationships with faculty to enhance student participation in events as part of academic course requirements.
- With the upcoming presidential election, ADP will once again host a number of election-centered activities. In Fall 2014, ADP sponsored a large number of election activities from a voter registration drive to a congressional candidate forum to an election night party. ADP staff are planning to drum up excitement for the presidential primary in Indiana by hosting presidential debate viewings, implement TurboVote on the campus to get more students registered to vote, and a host of other election activities.
- The new ADP Fellow Student Advisory Board developed in Fall 2014 will continue to be a central force to this initiative. These students will be at the forefront of generating ideas about programming and implementing programming. Given their level of civic engagement, ADP is planning a Spring 2016 trip to New York for a "tour of citizenship." Here, ADP Advisory Board members will have the opportunity to learn more about citizenship from visiting Ellis Island, to touring the United Nations, to a viewing of the National September 11 Memorial. This trip serves as a way for these students to engage in experiential learning about citizenship, democracy, and leadership. All but 1 one of the Advisory Board members are juniors and sophomores, and so these students will be able to bring these experiences back to campus with them to assist in developing civic and political engagement on our campus.
- ISU Day at the Indiana Statehouse: ADP will continue in coordinating the ISU Day at the Statehouse. Our goal is to have a larger number of students attending and departments represented in Spring 2016. Following the success of last year's trip, many departments that were not a part of the trip contacted the ADP coordinator about participating in the Spring 2015 trip. Thus, the participating count in Spring 2015

Strategic Plan – Initiative Work Plan FY2016

doubled that of Spring 2014. ADP would like to see this trip continue to grow every year as it is an excellent opportunity for students to interact with state policymakers and engage in the civic action.

5. Reporting and Deliverable Schedule – When?

ADP staff maintains and updates a database containing records of student attendance to ADP programming (student identification numbers). This database is updated after each event. At the end of the academic year, a compiled report of student participation will continue to be reported out.

6. Budget – How Much, a General Discussion of Funds Use?

The bulk of the funds requested (over 94 percent) is for students, and the funds requested fall into three primary categories: support for ADP student assistants, programming support, and travel expenses for the ADP student leadership team to go to New York for leadership development.

In order to create greater capacity for planning and program implementation, a graduate assistant is needed for ADP (AY stipend plus in-state tuition waiver as well as a summer stipend for Summer 2015) and funding for six undergraduate assistants to work as Advisory Board members under the Graduate Assistant. This leadership team will be responsible for the bulk of the planning, coordinating, development, and implementation of ADP programming and events.

In terms of programming, we are requesting funds to encompass programming costs. These costs include catering (we always feed students at events), supplies, and printing for the 20+ events ADP sponsors and co-sponsors during the academic year. In addition, these costs also cover three coaches for the spring ISU Day at the Statehouse, and the expense of implementing TurboVote, a multi-campus initiative that drives student voter registration, on ISU's campus.

Finally we are planning an experiential learning trip for the ADP Advisory board to New York in Spring 2016. The travel funds requested will cover lodging and transportation expenses for students.

7. Stakeholders and Management Plan – Who?

Dr. Carly Schmitt in the Department of Political Science is the coordinator of the American Democracy Project. ISU's ADP has created Faculty Advisory Board that includes faculty from the departments of Communication, Economics, History; faculty from the Library and the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance; and representatives from The Center for Community Engagement, and Campus Life.

8. Outcome Assessment & Future Testing

Our goals are quantifiable. We will continue our use of collecting student identification numbers for our sponsored and cosponsored events. In turn, we will estimate the total number of students ADP reached in the academic year, and the total number of attendees to ADP events. This will be our central assessment tool in examining ADP's campus reach.

We will also continue to track the numbers of events that ADP cosponsors each academic year, and the number of national service days ADP develops programming for students to participate in service opportunities.

9. Line Item Budget Discussion that tracks Budget Templates

Line 5: \$3,000 is requested for a summer stipend for the faculty coordinator for Summer 2014

Line 6: \$9,000 is requested for in-state tuition waiver for the ADP graduate assistant for three semesters.

Strategic Plan – Initiative Work Plan FY2016

Line 7: \$12,000 requested for the stipend for the ADP graduate assistant for three semesters

Line 8: \$6,000 is requested to pay for Undergraduate Fellow Student Advisory Board Members for \$500/semester

Line 20: \$2,500 is requested to pay for campus TurboVote initiative

Line 30: \$6,500 is requested to cover travel and lodging expenses for Student Advisory Board trip to New York. This amount will cover the transportation and lodging expenses for six students and the faculty coordinator of the American Democracy Project.

Line 31: \$3,000 is requested for the cost of three coaches. These coaches will be used to send 100+ students to Indianapolis for ISU Day at the Indiana Statehouse.

Line 40: \$1,500 is requested for printing costs for ISU Day at the Statehouse. ADP covers the expenses of printing students' poster presentations. Every student and/or student group is required to have a professional poster so that they can discuss their work with members of the state legislature, the governor, and other policymakers.

Line 41: \$300 is requested for printing ADP's spring and fall flyers of programming

Line 51: \$7,000 is requested for catering of the 20+ events that ADP sponsors and co-sponsors. This includes "Pizza and Politics" events (\$400) and other types of events. The amount of funds needed to sponsor/co-sponsor an event will vary depending on the event and expected audience.

Line 52: \$3,000 is requested for general supplies ADP events (e.g., lawn signs, special prizes and awards given to student attendees at events, supplies needed for programming implementation)