

Strategic Plan – Initiative Work Plan FY2016

Initiative Name Center for Student Research and Creativity Date 31 May 2015

Goal # 2 Goal Chair(s) VP Nancy Rogers

Initiative # 1.B Initiative Chair(s) Tom Steiger

Thesis Statement _____

1. Introduction/Background – What?

Research and creativity are widely recognized as a key component of experiential learning. The mission of Indiana State University's Center for Student Research and Creativity is to institutionalize student research and creativity, focusing primarily on the undergraduate experience. The Center will serve as a clearinghouse for information, support, coordination, and communication for all student research and creative activities.

ISU's incubator for student research and creativity

2. Proposal/Purpose/Justification – Why?

The purpose is to enhance experiential learning of ISU students (Goal 2). There are also impacts to increasing enrollment and student success (Goal 1); enhancing community engagement (Goal 3); Study Abroad and Travel (Goal 2) and strengthening and leveraging programs of distinction (through research and creativity, especially the Institute of Community Sustainability and the The Center for Genomic Advocacy). Beginning with Summer 2015 the CSRC will also be coordinating with the Career Center (Goal 2 .1A specifically with the Career Readiness Certificate.

3. Discussion of Past Years Results – Benchmark Successes?

(This section needs to be as long as is necessary to assess whether funding should be continued.)

Initiative Benchmarks	FY 2013A	FY 2013G	FY 2014A	FY 2014G	FY 2015A	FY 2015G	Fall 2016	Fall 2017
Increase percentage of graduating Seniors that have received support for undergraduate research/creative experience	2.17%	1.85%	5.94%	3.2%	8.14%	6%	9.6%	12.8%
Increase hard # of students receiving support from CSRC (collect 991)	198	158	372	171	268	180	207	227
Increase hard# of students participating in research "showcases"/professional presentations (collect 991s)	218	179	250	205	476	225	248	272
Increase overall attendance at annual "Exposium" celebration of student research and creativity	379	313	626	361	896	395	434	475
NEW BENCHMARKS FOR 2015-2017: increase in number of students conducting undergraduate research not funded by CSRC/SURE					230	150	188	235
Increase student credit hours generated by undergraduate research/creativity					555	300	376	472

The CSRC continues to exceed its benchmark goals. More importantly is the increasing evidence of a cultural change at ISU as undergraduate research becomes institutionalized.

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The benchmarks used by the CSRC focus on the number of students funded by the CSRC. However, others are beginning to support undergraduate research both financially and in the curriculum. This is why the CSRC has added two new benchmarks, “increase in number of students conducting undergraduate research not funded by CSRC/SURE” and “student credit hours generated by undergraduate research/creativity.”

The SURF (Sycamore Undergraduate Research Fellowship) is an excellent example.. The CSRC proposed this concept to Scholarships and 12 SURFs were offered to incoming students in Fall 2014. Eleven accepted. We are expecting 12 in Fall 2015. Also, a new summer initiative was launched with no CSRC financial support, SUDSE (Summer Undergraduate Diversity and Sustainability Experience). Another measure of the cultural change is students conducting undergraduate research/creative projects for academic credit. In essence these are independent studies or “senior theses.” At least 230 students engaged in undergraduate research outside of CSRC and SURE funding. This figure is an undercount as a more systematic count is needed that what was performed here. Two hundred twelve (212) students conducted research in courses for students conducting independent research projects. This reflects just six departments reporting and accounts for 555 student credit hours for FY2015.

Our benchmark goal for percent of graduating seniors receiving funding from the CSRC was 6%. We funded 8.14% of AY2015 graduates.

While the number of students receiving support from the CSRC exceeded the benchmark goal by 97, it was 104 fewer than last year because of a surplus of funds from OSP (which the CSRC administers for both graduate and undergraduates) for undergraduate research related travel and international travel requests from faculty leading groups of students. With the significant reduction in available funds and fewer faculty traveling abroad with students this year, there were 114 fewer requests in FY15 than in FY14. If funding for travel does not increase, the total number of students funded is likely to drop again.

Four hundred seventy six (476) students presented in research showcases/professional presentations in FY2015. This exceeds the goal by 271 and last year by 226. The likely reason for this is the overall increase in undergraduate research that leads to more presentations.

Exposium has grown each year since its renaming in Spring 2012. In FY2015 it expanded to a full week and added a one day fall event. Eight hundred ninety six (896) people attended Exposium in FY2015, 120 in the Fall and 776 in the Spring. One hundred seventy eight (178) undergraduates and 89 graduate students presented/performed during Exposium. The rest were non-presenters, the “audience” if you will. These numbers, plus the incorporation of Exposium into Spring courses, suggest that Exposium is becoming part of the culture at ISU and another indicator of the growing place of undergraduate research and creativity in the ISU culture.

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

- Monetary support for undergraduate research experience (student wage dollars, materials support, and travel support)
- Celebration of student research and creativity (Exposium, first full week of April and end of October)

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- Faculty support (travel, development, one-time investment monies to create opportunities for undergraduates, and in 2015, if funded, small stipends to summer mentors)
- Summer Research/Creative experiences (\$3500 summer stipends for research/creative experience ex: SURE, ISUCCEED, SASER, ReCOH, Mobile Programming Boot Camp)
- Student support for travel to professional meetings to present their work (NCUR2015, etc)
- Various initiatives to create opportunities for student research and creativity (DR RAP (an award to graduate students upon defending their dissertation proposal for an undergraduate research assistant, support for Allusions, a literary journal published by students, etc)

5. Reporting and Deliverable Schedule – When?

- Support for student wages and materials are reviewed on a rolling basis.
- Support for student travel is reviewed mid- September and mid- February
- Exposium registration will begin in September 2014 for first full week of April
- Summer 2016 is focused on sustaining the following programs STARS, ISUCCEED, Programming Bootcamp in COT, REUSH, ReCOH, integrating summer research and creative students with the workforce readiness certificate.
- Ongoing videographer and student producer producing digital “stories” of undergraduate research and creativity at ISU as part of the celebration and promotion of undergraduate research and creativity.
- Working with Foundation for external support.
- Sycamores at NCUR2016 (partnership with Colleges to increase student presentations...goal is to have projects from at least four colleges and at least 15 projects accepted.

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

The CSRC is requesting \$253,250. \$67,500 (27%) is for the operation of the CSRC office (Administrative Assistant’s salary, Director’s buyouts) and phone , supplies and equipment. \$115,000 (45%) is for student wages and summer scholarships to conduct research/creative projects. \$50,000 (20%) is for travel for students and limited number of faculty to disseminate research/further research projects. Remainder (8%) is for Exposium, marketing and promotional materials for the CSRC and undergraduate research and creativity at ISU.

7. Stakeholders and Management Plan – Who?

- Undergraduate students and faculty are major stakeholders.

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- SURE program (undergrad research program administered in Chemistry and Physics Department, supported by CSRC)
- The following CSRC initiatives: ReCOH, STARS, SURF, ISUCCEED, COT Programming Bootcamp, REUSH, DR RAP

Management Plan. In conjunction with the CSRC’s Strategic Planning Team, Tom Derrick, Lindsey Eberman, Lynn Maurer, Eric Glendening, Fran Lattanzio, David Malooley, David Robinson, and Linda Sperry, this plan has been developed:

- Tom Steiger is Director of CSRC, Jenifer Pollom is full-time OA. They are responsible for CSRC operation on day to day basis.
- Oversight of specific research and creative projects are ISU faculty sponsors.
- Approach is Centralized-decentralization.(The CSRC is a centralized office of information and support but it decentralizes that information and support to the department and individual faculty level.)

8. Outcome Assessment & Future Testing

(How will we know that we were successful?)

The benchmarks remain the same as last year with two additions. Previous benchmarks are: 1) increase percentage of graduating Seniors that have had an Experiential Learning Component (undergraduate research/creativity) supported by CSRC; 2) increase hard # of students receiving support from CSRC; 3) increase hard# of students presenting research/creative projects at "showcases"/professional presentations; 4) increase hard# of lower division students participating in research/creative project experiences; 5) Increase overall attendance at annual “Exposium” celebration of student research and creativity.

The new benchmarks are “increase in number of students conducting undergraduate research not funded by CSRC/SURE” and “student credit hours generated by undergraduate research/creativity.”

The CSRC would welcome assistance with assessing the students’ experiences but a comprehensive assessment plan and resources to conduct are required and until the CSRC is on the regular budget, I see no reason at this time to pursue that.

9. Line Item Budget Discussion that tracks Budget Templates ...

(These sections also need to be as long as is necessary to articulate each of the budget line items.)

LABOR		
Type	Enter descriptors as necessary to complement Budget Narrative	Budget
Undergraduate Student	Student wages for working on faculty research projects	\$10,000
Other	Administrative Assistant for CSRC	\$54,000
Other	Course buyouts for CSRC Director	\$12,000
Undergraduate Student	Summer Research and Creative Scholarships (30 at 3500)	\$105,000

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\$181,000. Labor accounts for 71% of the budget request. 64% is to support students conducting research during the regular academic year (wages) and during the summer (scholarships). \$105,000 is enough to support 30 students doing 10 week summer intensive experiences. In summer 2015, the CSRC funded 21 students in summer research and creative experiences. (Funding for the Dept of Chemistry and Physics SURE program does not come from the CSRC, 52 students are participating in that program during summer 2015). Adding nine more students to these experiences would not be difficult. A summer program in Applied Medicine waiting (with adequate funding that would be a reality this summer, that would add 5 students).

Equipment (Including software and hardware)	
Supplies and equipment (miscellaneous, paper, ink, office supplies, phone)	\$1,500

Operational budget, \$58,250 (23%) The CSRC operation is virtual. Our operational expenses are mostly in ink and paper for working with the offices on the university that are not virtual. Plus the phone.

Travel	
Director's travel (to NCUR (Asheville, NC) and one other undergraduate related conference)	\$5,000
Student travel to NCUR (Asheville, NC) for 30 students	\$37,500
Student travel for research and professional presentations	\$6,500
Faculty travel support (up to 5 faculty)	\$1,000

75% of the travel budget is dedicated to taking students to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). In 2015 24 students traveled to Cheney, WA to present the research they had completed. These experiences are vital and rich for students. To discuss their research with others in this forum adds to their poise, is outstanding preparation and credentials for graduate school as well as the workforce after they graduate. NCUR is open to all students which makes it an ideal venue for ISU to pick up the full cost for the trip. The CSRC partners with the respective colleges for some matching funds. In 2015, the College of Arts and Sciences contributed \$200 per student to the cost of the trip for their students.

Marketing	
Promotional materials for NFO, NSO, Extravaganza, Study Abroad Fair, other promotional opportunities	\$1,500
Exposium, fall and spring (food, promotional items, poster printing)	\$2,750
production of online archive, telling the story of undergraduate research with Sycamore Student Media	\$2,500

38% of the marketing budget is for Exposium, the day long (fall) and week long (spring) celebration of student research and creativity. This event continues to grow 896 people attending this year. While the event is important for providing students a chance to present their research and creative and performance projects, it is also an important way to market the activity to the campus. 34% of the Marketing budget is for the production of an interactive online Magazine, Sycamore Undergraduate Research and Creativity Annual (SURCA) focusing on undergraduate research and creativity. The CSRC has been trying to create this for more than a year with no good progress. The concept apparently is beyond the technology as well as know how of ISU. Several offices have expressed interest in experimenting with it but require additional resources to do it. This line item is for that purpose.

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OTHER	
Arts related support (Allusions, Purchase awards, Creative Writing activity support, Summer Theatre)	\$9,000
"Investment" fund for new initiatives that have some kind of matching funds.	\$5,000

"Other" funds make up only 6% of the total budget request. The "Arts" funding is an excellent "investment" compared to funding research. That \$9000 will contribute to nearly 70 undergraduate students engaged in creative and performance activities. Compared to summer research, the per capita student cost is \$129 per student for Arts compared to \$3000 per capita for summer research. On next year's horizon are two opportunities to match funds for student research and/or creative activities. A Venturewell Grant to create entrepreneurial teams (grant due in early October) and work with Three Blind Men productions on a documentary film about Vigo County's bellwether ability to call the winner in Presidential elections.

Summary: This budget should, conservatively, involve 390 students. When monies from this budget that are not directly expended on them are removed (salaries, operational costs) this leaves \$175,750 or \$451 per student.