

The Higher Learning Commission Action Project Directory

University of St. Francis

Project Details		
Title	Determining the Value of Collaborative Relationships on Student Learning	Status ACTIVE
Category	1-Helping Students Learn	Updated
Timeline		Reviewed
	Planned Project Kickoff 11-14-2011	Created 10-27-2011
	Target Completion 12-31-2012	Version 1

1: Project Goal

A: The first iteration of this project (now retired) was to compile a list of current partnerships in the areas of community partnerships (service, sponsorship, business) and academic partnerships. The goal of this second phase is to use feedback from the most recent Systems Appraisal and seek student and faculty input on how academic, service, sponsorship and business partnerships have enhanced their classroom learning experiences. This input coupled with the data compiled previously will allow us to determine those relationships that are most beneficial to student learning at University of St. Francis.

2: Reasons For Project

A: It is imperative for the University to capitalize on its current partnerships in the areas of grant opportunities, revenue streams, recruiting, development and more. In addition, it is important to maximize our resources in the most efficient manner possible. As per the most recent Systems Appraisal, USF must "continue to seek methods for assessing the impact of these relationships on student learning and for achieving an intentional approach to collaborative relationships." Our initial review of the Systems Appraisal shows a great opportunity for thoroughly reviewing data we collect and using the results to pursue continued quality improvement at the University.

3: Organizational Areas Affected

A: Admissions, Solutions, REAL, Career Development, Center for Innovation, Athletics, University Relations (Marketing, Alumni Relations, Public Relations) and Academic units. In addition we will solicit input from both students and faculty to help determine which relationships we maintain that are most beneficial to Helping Students Learn.

4: Key Organizational Process(es)

A: This project will be the first step to determining which partnerships and affiliations enhance the student learning processes. It is our hope that this identification process will help us to further direct resources to those relationships deemed most beneficial to student learning. We also hope to improve the process of generating new partnerships and enhancing current partnerships. By understanding how our current relationships help in student learning, we will be able to build a plan to maximize resources for new relationships. Partnerships enhance the University's ability to combine resources both internally and externally to create shared perspective with community constituents, to increase USF's image and to provide visibility and connection to the community. In turn, partnerships offer the opportunity for increased recruitment efforts, revenue streams, grant initiatives, student career connections, internal collaboration and public relations exposure. Currently, while the first iteration of this project allowed us to quantify these relationships, we have no formal process that helps us to ascertain the "quality" and "usefulness" of these relationships.

5: Project Time Frame Rationale

A: The timeline will utilize Spring 2012 semester to complete the bulk of the data collection from faculty and students. During the summer and fall we hope to analyze the data and determine future direction in delegating resources to these relationships. Initially we will need to work with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness to determine the appropriate survey questions for our faculty and student populations.

6: Project Success Monitoring

A: The listing of partnerships is to be updated and reviewed every other year. The responses from students and faculty are critical to this endeavor, and the volume of these responses should help us quantify/monitor how we are progressing on the goal of this project. The survey will be initiated from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and monitored by the USF Business Solutions office.

7: Project Outcome Measures

A: The outcome should tell us which of our current relationships are the most beneficial in helping students learn. This data should also help to target University resources to those resources in hopes of expanding upon them, thus enhancing their effectiveness in the future. If this process becomes institutionalized it will help determine which future relationships/collaborations will be the most valuable. This Action Project will be a failure if significant data is not obtained from the participants.