

**Email of person filling out this Initial Proposal \***

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**Title \***

Establish the Washburn Center for Teaching Excellence

**Problem / Opportunity Statement \***

Because teaching is the primary mission of Washburn University, we would benefit from a center where faculty can learn and improve instructional pedagogy, access current research, study learning theory and best practices of planning and assessment, the tools necessary to successfully meet the needs of our twenty-first century Washburn students.

**Select one quality initiative sub-theme. \***

Faculty Transitions

**Sub-theme description. \***

The Washburn University Center for Teaching Excellence would empower faculty to improve the quality of their teaching, resulting in an improvement of the quality of the education Washburn University students receive at Washburn University.

Faculty would gain increased understanding and ability to create and effectively utilize knowledge related to a wide variety of topics for both online and face to face teaching. The Center would create faculty work-shops, build an online repository of written and audio-visual resources, gather and disseminate information as well as aid and support faculty in adopting new teaching strategies and effective pedagogical practices. Examples of topics could include:

- Course design
- Strategies to engage a diverse student population
- Learning outcomes based on Bloom's Taxonomy
- Assignment construction
- Assessment tools and documenting student learning
- Instructional technology
- ADA compliance

The Center for Teaching Excellence would have a physical presence on campus where faculty could meet and study. At least one full time staff person would coordinate the goals of the Center supported by other faculty exhibiting particular skills and who could be trained as mentors and peer coaches for faculty seeking to improve their teaching practices.

**Benefits \***

The Washburn University Center for Teaching Excellence would support faculty growth and development in several ways. Teachers will be able to:

- utilize research-based pedagogy and creatively challenge themselves and students.
- develop a rich and diverse repertoire of assessment strategies for their classes and departments.
- incorporate new instructional technology into classroom and online courses.
- engage colleagues within and outside of their departments in collaborative teaching and research oriented toward student learning.
- create effective and productive solutions to ADA compliance for face to face and online courses.
- document their teaching excellence with a portfolio of instructional strategies, assessment, evidence of student learning, etc.
- access group and individual training through mentoring and peer coaching.

Student learning will increase because of the increased teacher expertise related to:

- student engagement and meeting their diverse needs,

- a more dynamic and learning-focused environment,
- techniques for successful teaching of all students, including students with disabilities.

Washburn University will benefit because teaching excellence results in more successful students. Successful students are committed to completing their goals and earning their degrees. Graduating students broadens the reach of Washburn University and promotes the enrollment of future students.

### Scope \*

Every single faculty member, full time and adjunct, would have a resource center to be a better teacher. Faculty need and crave an opportunity to learn and excel at what we feel the most passionate about – teaching. The entire university and especially the students would benefit from this center being available for faculty.

Faculty need and crave an opportunity to learn and excel at what we feel the most passionate about – teaching. The Washburn Center for Teaching Excellence would provide every single faculty member, full time and adjunct, a resource to support his or her professional growth. Potentially, the entire university, but especially the students would benefit from this center being available for faculty study and growth.

<b>1st Stake Holder's Organization / Department</b>	All faculty
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