Email of person filling out this Initial Proposal *	sarah.ubel@washburn.edu
Title *	Create Washburn University Speech Lab
Problem / Opportunity Statement *	Washburn University has indicated that one of the General Education Student Learning Outcomes is Communication. Students are supposed to be able to demonstrate proficiency in oral communication. Students are commonly required to give speeches and presentations yet have no resource center specifically designed for public speaking to get help.
Select one quality initiative sub-theme. *	Student Transitions

Sub-theme description. *

Students are expected to have developed skills in public speaking yet have no resource center to help them develop skills specifically about oral communication.

We must make the tools available so students can successfully develop such an important skill. A Speech Lab, a common resource center for students available at many universities, would serve as a center for students to gain Public Speaking assistance. While almost every major requires presentations and speeches in class, faculty spend little time on specific instruction on how to organize a presentation, use nonverbal to the speaker's advantage or how to create and utilize visual aids effectively. However, they may still expect students to know this information. Students need a specific resource center dedicated to Public Speaking where they can go to get assistance with these types of assignments so that they may be successful in meeting the expectations of assignments and demonstrate quality work.

A Speech Lab could consist of an actual space where students could come and get help and practice speeches and it could be a virtual lab where students could record videos and upload them for expert critiques.

Benefits *

The Washburn University Speech Lab would enable students to have a higher likelihood of being successful at all courses which contain a public speaking component. The students would spend less time concerned about the public speaking aspect of the assignment and more time concerned about the discipline specific content of their speech or presentation. It will also help prepare student speeches and presentations for other types of activities. This may include presentations before business and community groups, academic presentations for conferences and presentations completed as part of internships. The Speech Lab will enable students to demonstrate learning through student assessments, be successful in professional and extracurricular activities and help students prepare public speaking skills which they will use in careers. As we have commonly heard, people are more afraid of public speaking than they are of dying. Of course, the chall enge is actually just being afraid of the unknown. The Speech Lab would make the unknown known related to public speaking.

Scope *

All students would be impacted by the Speech Lab. It would provide all the opportunity to focus on their public speaking skills by a team of experts who would be able to help students with a variety of public speaking tasks and assignments for a wide variety purposes and audiences. The Lab could be organized by a designated member of the Communication Department who would hire and supervise undergraduates who had demonstrated exemplary understanding of Public Speaking. It would require supervision by a faculty member in the Communication Department to develop, hire and train students to staff the Lab, create technological functionality for the Lab as well as publicize its existence.

In addition, all faculty who require a presentation would be impacted because they would have a resource center to send students to who need additional assistance specifically with Public Speaking.

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