

Email of person filling out this Initial Proposal *

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Title *

High Impact Community Engagement Initiative

Problem / Opportunity Statement *

The purpose of the High Impact Community Engagement Initiative (HICEI) will be to integrate high-impact educational practices with community engagement to significantly strengthen academic and co-curricular programs as well as institutionalize civic engagement at Washburn University.

Select one quality initiative sub-theme. *

Student Transitions

Sub-theme description. *

The goal of the HICEI is threefold: (1) to foster the civic mission of Washburn University to produce productive and responsible citizens, (2) to embrace our role as a municipal university and what that means for our connection to the community that supports us and (3) to tap the energy, talent, and intellectual capacities of students, faculty members, staff and community partners. Ultimately, the initiative aims to forge pathways for higher education to serve a larger purpose in a healthier, more just democracy to impact both student learning and institutional and community change. This is in line with the Association of American Colleges and Universities High-Impact Educational Practices and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities call for schools to be civically engaged through their American Democracy Project. The HICEI will work with all aspects of the campus to create opportunities for community engagement. This will include assisting faculty in including community engagement in their courses, providing expanded opportunities for co-curricular activities, and providing community partners a mechanism to tap into the expertise of Washburn University.

Benefits *

The obvious benefits to the institution are increased student retention and graduation rates. Current data makes clear that the more involved students are in the community the more likely they are to continue toward graduation. Additionally, developing an engaged campus will provide faculty with new teaching tools as well as new arenas for research.

The greatest benefit to the university, however, will be an identity that allows Washburn to be unique not only in the region but also nationally. In the face of the burgeoning online for profit institutions it is more imperative than ever that traditional institutions define themselves in a way that makes them more attractive than online programs. We can't compete with the major online players, nor should we try. Developing a community engagement mission in line with the university's civic mission would provide a place in higher education that students would desire to attend since the skills learned through community engagement translate into skills employers are seeking. The HICEI will provide those opportunities that will subsequently increase student participation and attract students to Washburn.

Scope *

The High Impact Community Engagement Initiative will impact the entire university as well as Topeka. This includes all academic units, student life, and the community partners involved. It should be noted that by community engagement, we do not mean solely community service or work with nonprofit organizations. While that is one piece, it does not cover the breadth of the project we are proposing. This initiative would support a wide variety of community-based internships, service-learning courses, research and student-led initiatives. By integrating community engagement as a practice of the institution the impact will be one that creates an environment and culture in which students leave the university with a sense of commitment to civic involvement. They will experience diversity, policy, learning, and systems in a way that both enhance their classroom experience in their discipline while

broadening their view of the world and their role in it. Additionally, faculty will be committed to the larger community in ways that change both the institution and Topeka, as well as be able to work with highly engaged students both in and out of the classroom.

1st Stake Holder's Organization / Department	Faculty
2nd Stake Holder's Organization / Department	Students
3rd Stake Holder's Organization / Department	Staff
4th Stake Holder's Organization / Department	Community Organizations
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The following have expressed an interest to be involved with the team

Masha Carrosco-Cooper-Leadership
Rachel Goosen-History
Melanie Burdick-English
James Barraclough-Career Services
Jessica Neumann-Barraclough SAGL
Chase Sachs WSGA
