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Strategic Planning
Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI)
Louisiana State University

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OSI Vision

The Office of Strategic Initiatives will assist in moving LSU up to a new level of excellence. OSI will actively focus on action steps that will support the educational research and scholarly productivity of faculty and the quality and competitiveness of our graduate and undergraduate students. Our vision is to become a nationally recognized innovator in developing successful educational models that integrate mentoring and research and that also support efforts to improve campus diversity, particularly in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

OSI Mission

OSI will develop and implement programs that are designed to increase *diversity*, foster opportunities for *discovery*, collaborate on improving the campus *learning* community for all students, and promote community *engagement*.

Specifically, OSI will
1. Assist the university in recruiting academically gifted high school and community college students into its undergraduate degree programs;
2. Assist LSU students and faculty in the receipt of major national/external awards and in increasing the national and international recognition of the university;
3. Support the academic success of students through structured mentoring and research programs;
4. Assist the university in attracting more undergraduate and graduate students from under-represented groups into the university;
5. Assist in increasing the enrollment and graduation rate of minority Ph.D. students in STEM disciplines;
6. Provide support to precollege students and teachers.

OSI Values

OSI will collaborate with units within the LSU system and throughout the state for the advancement of education, both locally and nationally. Our aim is to provide a strong infrastructure for enhancing services that will assist in increasing and improving the learning environment at LSU for all students.

OSI Goals

I.   Discovery: OSI will provide opportunity for discovery.

Goal #1:
      Statement – Develop STEM education/research programs
      Indicators – (i) At least five proposals will be submitted per year to external and/or federal funding agencies.

(ii) During the period of 2011-2020, a minimum of $10M (i.e., an average of $1M per year) will be attracted to OSI through acquisition of external grants.

Goal #2:
Statement – Provide undergraduate students with financial support.
Indicator – (i) At least 100 undergraduate students are currently supported through OSI. This level will be expanded by 10% each year. While different levels of support will be provided, students will receive at least $1,000 per year.

Goal #3:
Statement – Provide students with early research opportunities, both during the academic year and in the summer.
Indicators – (i) OSI will assist in providing research opportunities to at least 20 students per year during the academic year.
(ii) OSI will assist at least 10 students to obtain summer research experience outside of LSU.

II.   Learning: OSI will collaborate to improve the *learning* environment for all students

Goal #4:
Statement – Create Mentoring courses that lead students toward academic success
Indicators – (i) OSI will develop, update, and maintain several levels of OSI mentoring courses that train students to become inspirational teachers, exemplary mentors, effective leaders, and model citizens.
(ii) One course will be offered through OSI per semester with an enrollment of at least 20 students per course.

Goal #5:
Statement – Assist students in application and receipt of graduate fellowships.
Indicators – (i) OSI will sponsor at least 2 seminars per year to assist students in applications for graduate school admission and receipt of fellowships.
(ii) OSI will assist at least 10 OSI students in obtaining graduate fellowships.

III.   Diversity: OSI will help to foster diversity through its programs and initiatives.
Goal #6:
Statement – Assist in recruiting a diverse population of high school students into LSU's honor college and its various STEM departments.
Indicator – (i) OSI will recruit at least 20 high school students from diverse populations (including minority and female students) per year into STEM departments through active recruitment efforts and will assist in supporting these students through scholarships and mentoring.

Goal #7:
Statement – Facilitate student transfer from community college into LSU

Indicator – (i) OSI will provide research opportunities and support to at least 5 academically gifted community college students per year, with a particular focus on students from Baton Rouge Community College.

Goal #8:
Statement – Recruit underrepresented students into STEM Ph.D. disciplines, while providing necessary mentoring, financial support, and training.
Indicators – (i) Through OSI efforts, at least 10 new underrepresented students will be recruited into LSU Ph.D. programs within STEM disciplines.
(ii) OSI will sponsor at least one seminar per semester to assist on-going underrepresented STEM Ph.D. students.

IV. Engagement: OSI will promote community engagement through educational initiatives.
Goal #9:
Statement – Provide support for K-12 students through tutoring and science/engineering project mentoring using OSI program students.
Indicators – (i) OSI will provide tutorial services (particularly in the area of mathematics) to at least five K-12 schools within East Baton Rouge Parish.
(ii) OSI will train students to serve as mentors for at least 10 high school science and engineering projects per year.

Goal #10:
Statement – Collaborate with the Cain Center and other universities to enhance education and research programs.
Indicators – (i) OSI will work with the Cain Center and other universities, such as Southern University, to submit at least one joint education/research proposal per year.
(ii) OSI will develop at least one joint event with the Cain Center and other Louisiana universities per year, e.g. a student research symposium.