University-wide Research

Detailed Assessment Report  
2011-2012

Mission / Purpose
As part of its overall mission, the University of West Alabama encourages faculty to be "committed to providing leadership and fostering positive growth throughout West Alabama through research and public service, with primary emphasis on that which meets the educational, social, cultural, and economic needs of the region." Although primary emphasis may be placed on the immediate region, the University encourages applied and pure research that furthers the knowledge base of a faculty member's discipline and results in publications, presentations, and/or papers as well as research leading to grant proposals in coordination with the Office of Sponsored Programs. Moreover, faculty are encouraged to engage students in research opportunities when appropriate in order to enrich the students' academic experience. Research leading to publication, presentations, and/or papers or to grants is one of the assessment criteria considered in the promotion and tenure of faculty.

I. Goals and Other Outcomes/Objectives, with Related Measures, Targets, Findings, and Action Plans

A. Goals: Address the educational, social, cultural, and economic issues of the region
Address the major educational, social, cultural, and economic issues of the region and in doing so promote a positive image of the institution and the area.

1. Objective: Educational research
Faculty and/or students will participate in and seek funding for research that addresses the educational needs of the region.

a. Measure: Research impacting educational needs
Researchers will conduct research aimed at improving teaching skills, increasing knowledge of particular course subject matter, and/or otherwise impacting the educational needs of the region.

1. Achievement Target:
Research efforts will lead to publication, presentation, scholarly papers, or services/projects.

2. Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Partially Met
Department of Instructional Leadership and Support: 2011-2012: Scholarly Research
28 research studies by seven different faculty members were conducted. Topics included: public school libraries as safe havens, student opinions of Tegrity, making the population connection across the curricula, STEM learners, academic fraud, effective parenting skills, counseling services and distance learning, multiple intelligences, program designs, assessing academic rigor, and conceptual framework and learning outcomes.

Publications
Five professional articles by five faculty members were published in five different scholarly journals.

**Presentations**
Seven faculty members made 23 presentations at 18 conferences.

**Department of Curriculum and Instruction: 2011-2012:**

**Scholarly Research**
38 research studies by 12 faculty members were conducted. Topics included: students' images of science, culturally relevant literature, parents: the child's first teacher, promoting teacher effectiveness, the virtual classroom, bullying prevention, using notable books to teach social studies, what does peace mean to a kindergartener, and using geocaching to teach math, geography, and writing.

**Publications**
11 professional articles by seven faculty members were published in eight publications.

**Presentations**
12 faculty members made 33 presentations at 22 professional conferences.

**Physical Education: 2011-2012:**

**Scholarly Research**
15 research studies by two faculty members were conducted. Topics included: kinesiology, athletic training and sports medicine issues, the elbow and the forearm, exam of the knee, patient centered care, hip and thigh anatomy, and plasma estradiol concentrations.

**Publications**
Two professional articles by two faculty members were published in two publications.

**Presentations**
Three faculty members made 13 presentations at eight conferences.

**Mathematics: 2011-2012:**

**Scholarly Research**
Two research studies by two faculty members were conducted. The topics were "Capping the Variance of Cash Flow of Hedging Strategy" and "Twisted Tensor Products of Quiver Algebras."

**Publications**
One faculty submitted a research paper to the University of Alabama. No publications were submitted.

**Presentations**
One faculty member made a presentation at a conference. Biological &

**Environmental Sciences: 2011-2012:**

**Scholarly Research**
Six research studies were conducted by four faculty members. Topics included: exposing high school students to lab techniques, fungal entophytes, Northern Red Oaks research, and ozone stress responses.

**Publications**
No publications were submitted.

**Presentations**
Three faculty members made six presentations at four conferences.
Business Administration, Management, & Marketing: 2011-2012:
Scholarly Research
Nine research studies were conducted by four faculty members. Topics included: homeland security, economic development, preventing online cheating, and CEO pay and the recession.
Publications
Two professional articles by one faculty member were published in two publications.
Presentations
Four faculty members made ten presentations at seven conferences.

Accounting, Finance, and Economics: 2011-2012:
Scholarly Research
One research study was conducted by one faculty member. The topic was "The Business of Criminal Justice: A Guide for Theory and Practice."
Publications
One faculty member published an article in a publication.
Presentations
No presentations were made.

Computer Information Systems and Technology: 2011-2012:
Scholarly Research
Two faculty members conducted six research studies. Topics included: preventing online cheating, academic integrity and the Remote Proctor, strategic economics for law enforcement organizations, and homeland security.
Publications
Four professional articles by two faculty members were published in three publications.
Presentations
Four faculty members made four presentations at three conferences.

Fine Arts: 2011-2012:
Scholarly Research
Two faculty members conducted four research studies. Topics included: Crafting community and music for the French horn and piano.
Publications
No publications were submitted.
Presentations
Two faculty members made four presentations at four professional events.

Languages and Literature: 2011-2012:
Scholarly Research
Two faculty members conducted four research studies. Topics included Nathaniel Hawthorne and British crime fiction.
Publications
No publications were submitted.
Presentations
Two faculty members made four presentations at four conferences.
Julia Tutwiler Library: 2011-2012:
Scholarly Research
One faculty member conducted a research study. The topic was "Elementary School Students Express Their Perceptions of Democratic Citizenship Through Learner-generated Drawings and Captions."
Publications
No publications were submitted.
Presentations
One faculty member made a presentation at a conference.

Division of Nursing: 2011-2012:
Scholarly Research
Two faculty members conducted two research studies. The topics were "Straws, Sticks, and Bricks - Building a Strong Tegrity House" and "Basic Skills of Outstanding Leadership."
Publications
No publications were submitted.
Presentations
Two faculty members made two presentations at two conferences.

TOTAL FOR 2011-2012
Scholarly Research = 246
Publications = 61
Presentations = 185

3. Supporting Document
   University Research Map 2011-2012

b. Measure: Acquire funding for research in all areas
Individuals will seek funding in order to conduct research that leads to further study and/or projects/services. Research conducted will have primary emphasis placed on subjects that identify or meet the educational, social, cultural, and economic needs of the region. The Office of Sponsored Programs will assist faculty and staff in submitting grant proposals for external funding. Internal grant programs such as the Teaching Excellence Grants, Service Learning Grants, and University Research Grants will provide some internal funding for research.

1. Achievement Target:
   Secure funding for educational research and related projects.

2. Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Partially Met
   In 2011-2012, the College of Education faculty received $705,651 for a grant specifically targeting instruction and academic support from the US Department of Education. The Office of Sponsored Programs received $750,000 for a grant that was also targeted specifically at instruction and academic support. Internal funding for research related to meeting the educational needs of the region is provided by the Service Learning Grants programs and included Dr. Heather McDonald's "Wise Gems" Service Learning Project which was funded in the amount of $1000 and Dr. Tammy Brown's "Science Night Out" project which was funded in the amount of $850. Another internal funding source is the Teaching
Excellence Program. This program funded five proposals for a total of $4375.84. Grants funded through the Teaching Excellence Program included: Ms. Rita Bonner TI Smart View Emulator Software and Casio FX Manager Plus Software Total Amount Requested: $730 Dr. Roger Campbell Enhancing Chemistry Comprehension with Peer-Led Podcasts Total Amount Requested: $934 Dr. Laurie Fowler Chasing Vermeer: Literacy and Numeracy through Literature Circles Total Amount Requested: $950.26 Dr. Denise Knight Best Practices in Instructional Leadership Total Amount Requested: $850

3. Action Plan:
   Increase funding of federal grant applications
   The Office of Sponsored Programs will work to submit a greater number of federal proposals and offer faculty and staff more workshops on federal applications and federal grant writing techniques.
   Established in Cycle: 2011-2012
   Implementation Status: Planned
   Priority: High
   Implementation Description: Office of Sponsored Programs will work to increase workshops for faculty and staff
   Responsible Person/Group: OSP

2. Objective: Economic research
   Faculty and/or students will generate studies and conduct research to impact the economic needs and/or economic development of the region.

   a. Measure: Aquire funding for research in all areas
      Individuals will seek funding in order to conduct research that leads to further study and/or projects/services. Research conducted will have primary emphasis placed on subjects that identify or meet the educational, social, cultural, and economic needs of the region. The Office of Sponsored Programs will assist faculty and staff in submitting grant proposals for external funding. Internal grant programs such as the Teaching Excellence Grants, Service Learning Grants, and University Research Grants will provide some internal funding for research.

   1. Achievement Target:
      Secure funding for studies on the economic needs of the region. Secure funding for research that may lead to projects and/or services that can impact the economic development of the region.

   2. Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Partially Met
      The College of Business received three grants for the Student in Free Enterprise from Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that totaled $5,500. The College of Business also received two grants totaling $12,106 for the purpose of providing tax preparation services. The Division of Outreach Services received two grants that totaled $73,380. These grants were funded for the Small Business Development Centers for outreach purposes. Internal funding included funding from the University Research Grants program. Grants funded by this program included a grant for Dr. Maydison Ginting for $319. The topic of that proposal was "Capping the Variance of Cash Flow of Hedging and Theory of Fuzzy Random Variables."
3. Action Plans:
   Increase funding of federal grant applications
   The Office of Sponsored Programs will work to submit a greater number of federal proposals and offer faculty and staff more workshops on federal applications and federal grant writing techniques.
   Established in Cycle: 2011-2012
   Implementation Status: Planned
   Priority: High
   Implementation Description: Office of Sponsored Programs will work to increase workshops for faculty and staff
   Responsible Person/Group: OSP

b. Measure: Research on economic issues of the region
   Researchers will design and conduct projects that may lead to publication, presentations, and/or scholarly papers regarding the economic needs and/or development of the region.

   1. Achievement Target:
      Research efforts will lead to publication, presentation, scholarly papers, or services/projects.

   2. Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Partially Met
      Biological and Environmental Sciences: 2011-2012:
      Scholarly Research
      One faculty member submitted a research project. The topic was undergraduate research mentoring on a plant detection of herbivore feeding cues. Publications - No publications were submitted.
      Presentation
      One faculty member made a presentation at a conference.

      Business Administration, Management and Marketing: 2011-2012:
      Scholarly Research
      Three faculty members conducted four research projects. Topics included economic development, "the more you learn, the more you earn", economic and community development, and disaster response planning for business events.
      Publications
      No publications were submitted.
      Presentations
      Three faculty members made four presentations at four conferences.

      Computer Information Systems and Technology: 2011-2012:
      Scholarly Research
      One faculty member conducted two research projects. The topics were "Strategic Economics for Law Enforcement Organizations" and "The Business of Criminal Justice: A guide Theory and Practice."
      Publications
      One faculty member had a project published. That same faculty member is in the process of writing a book.
      Presentations
No presentations were made.

**Accounting, Finance, and Economics: 2011-2012:**

**Scholarly Research**
Three faculty members conducted 13 research projects. Topics include online gaming and the theory of money, the evolution and the history of money demand, transformation of currencies in the virtual world of economics, foreign direct investment and community relationships, gender earnings gap, and the business of criminal justice.

**Publications**
Four faculty members published four articles in three publications. One faculty member has written three papers for his dissertation. Two faculty members are co-authoring a book.

**Presentations**
One faculty member made two presentations at a conference.

**TOTAL FOR 2011-2012**
Scholarly Research = 68
Publications = 14
Presentations = 54

3. **Supporting Documentation**
   University Research Map 2011-2012

4. **Action Plan:**
   **Increase the number of studies that impact economic development of the region**
   In conjunction with the Office of Sponsored Programs, the number of studies on the economic issues of the region conducted by faculty/staff and students will increase by 5%. By increasing studies in this area, more projects and services may be developed creating a greater impact on the region.
   **Established in Cycle:** 2010-2011
   **Implementation Status:** Planned
   **Priority:** High
   **Implementation Description:** Researchers will be encouraged to work with the Office of Sponsored Programs to seek funding for research on regional economic issues

3. **Objective: Social research**
   Faculty and/or students will conduct research on regionally relevant social issues.
   **a. Measure: Acquire funding for research in all areas**
   Individuals will seek funding in order to conduct research that leads to further study and/or projects/services. Research conducted will have primary emphasis placed on subjects that identify or meet the educational, social, cultural, and economic needs of the region. The Office of Sponsored Programs will assist faculty and staff in submitting grant proposals for external funding. Internal grant programs such as the Teaching Excellence Grants, Service Learning Grants, and
University Research Grants will provide some internal funding for research.

1. **Achievement Target:**
   Secure funding for research on regionally relevant social issues as well as funding for projects or services that result from research and grant proposals.

2. **Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Met**
   The College of Business received a grant in the amount of $2,000 for the purpose of community improvement. The Division of Outreach Services received a grant for Operation Jumpstart, a community outreach project, in the amount of $23,000. The College of Liberal Arts received a grant for Outdoor Fitness Fever in the amount of $4,500 and the Department of Athletics received a grant that totaled $3,000 for the "Get Outside" soccer program. Dr. Heather McDonal received a grant from the UWA Service Learning Grants that totaled $1,000 for her "WISE GEMS: Women In Science Empowering Girls Engaged in Math and Science."

3. **Action Plan:**
   **Increase funding of federal grant applications**
   The Office of Sponsored Programs will work to submit a greater number of federal proposals and offer faculty and staff more workshops on federal applications and federal grant writing techniques.
   **Established in Cycle:** 2011-2012
   **Implementation Status:** Planned
   **Priority:** High
   **Implementation Description:** Office of Sponsored Programs will work to increase workshops for faculty and staff
   **Responsible Person/Group:** OSP

b. **Measure: Research on regionally relevant social issues**
   Researchers will implement studies on regionally relevant social issues leading to publication, presentations, and/or papers.

1. **Achievement Target:**
   Research efforts will lead to publication, presentation, scholarly papers, or services/projects.

2. **Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Partially Met**
   **Computer Information Systems and Technology: 2011-2012:**
   **Scholarly Research**
   Two faculty members conducted five research projects. Topics included preventing online cheating, academic integrity, and criminal justice.
   **Publications**
   Five articles were submitted by two faculty members.
   **Presentations**
   One faculty member presented his paper at a conference.

   **Biological and Environmental Sciences: 2011-2012:**
   **Scholarly Research**
   Three faculty members conducted three research projects. The topics included exposing high school student in the surrounding area to advance laboratory
techniques, the organization of six Science Saturdays, and consulting undergraduate research on a plant detection of herbivore feeding cues project.

**Publications**
Two faculty members submitted two papers that led to grants.

**Presentations**
One faculty member organized Science Saturdays activities.

**Curriculum and Instruction: 2011-2012:**

**Scholarly research**
Two faculty members submitted one scholarly research project. The topic was "Bullying Prevention and Remediation for Victims."

**Publications**
No publications were submitted.

**Presentations**
Two faculty members made a presentation at a conference.

**Languages and Literature : 2011-2012:**

**Scholarly Research**
Two faculty members submitted nine research projects. Topics included: gender cues in televised coverage of the 2010 Winter Olympics, gender stereotypes in sports media, audience perception of criminally convicted athletes, and creating blogs.

**Publications**
One faculty member published four articles in publications.

**Presentations**
One faculty member presented five scholarly research papers at five conferences. Another faculty member presented at a conference.

**TOTAL FOR 2011-2012**

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3. **Supporting Documents**

University Research Map 2011-2012

4. **Objective: Cultural research**

Faculty and/or students will design and implement research on the region in order to impact and increase cultural awareness.

**a. Measure: Acquire funding for research in all areas**

Individuals will seek funding in order to conduct research that leads to further study and/or projects/services. Research conducted will have primary emphasis placed on subjects that identify or meet the educational, social, cultural, and economic needs of the region. The Office of Sponsored Programs will assist faculty and staff in submitting grant proposals for external funding. Internal grant programs such as the Teaching Excellence Grants, Service Learning Grants, and University Research Grants will provide some internal funding for research.
1. **Achievement Target:**
Secure funding for cultural research proposals and projects that result from the research related to proposals.

2. **Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Met**
The Division of Education Outreach received 10 grants for cultural purposes that totaled $659,377. Grant proposal topics included "Labor Archives and History", "Black Belt Garden Trails", "Black Belt Heritage", and "Fort Tombecbe Archaeological Project." Three internal grants from the University Research Grants program were awarded for cultural research. These grants totaled $2737 and the topics were: Dr. Alan Brown - Ghosts of the Gulf Coast Dr. Ashley Dumas - Microscopic Analysis of Native American Pottery Dr. Chris Haveman - Rivers of Sand: The Removal of the Creek Indians

3. **Action Plan:**
   - **Increase funding of federal grant applications**
The Office of Sponsored Programs will work to submit a greater number of federal proposals and offer faculty and staff more workshops on federal applications and federal grant writing techniques.
   - **Established in Cycle:** 2011-2012
   - **Implementation Status:** Planned
   - **Priority:** High
   - **Implementation Description:** Office of Sponsored Programs will work to increase workshops for faculty and staff
   - **Responsible Person/Group:** OSP

b. **Measure: Research impacting cultural awareness of the region**
Research proposals will be designed and implemented by faculty and/or students to impact and increase cultural awareness within the region.

1. **Achievement Target:**
Research efforts will lead to publication, presentation, scholarly papers, or services/projects.

2. **Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Partially Met**
   - **Languages and Literature: 2011-2012:**
     - **Scholarly Research**
       Two faculty members conducted nine research projects. Topics included: ghosts along the Mississippi, Edgar Allen Poe and the Gothic Movement, Junior Kimbrough: Blues Resurrection, and literature and health care.
     - **Publications**
       Two faculty members submitted three articles that were published in three journals. One faculty member published two books.
     - **Presentations**
       One faculty member made five presentations at five conferences.
   - **History and Social Sciences: 2011-2012:**
     - **Scholarly Research**
Two faculty members conducted three research projects. The topics included "French Colonial Archaeology at Fort Tombecbe in West Central Alabama" and Creek Removal.

**Publications**
One faculty member submitted an article for publication by Native South and also submitted a revised manuscript to a press.

**Presentation**
One faculty member made a presentation at a conference.

**Fine Arts: 2011-2012:**

**Scholarly Research**
Four faculty members conducted 17 research projects. The topics included duet pianists for the Meridian Symphony Chorus Performance of Neue Liebeslieder by Johannes Brahms, a Spring art and photography show, the "Plastic Propaganda Poster Project", Godspell; the Musical, and an artist residency in Scotland.

**Publications**
No publications were submitted.

**Presentations**
Four faculty members presented 17 fine arts productions.

**TOTAL FOR 2011-2012**

- Scholarly Research = 38
- Publications = 11
- Presentations = 27

3. Supporting Documents
University Research Map 2011-2012

5. Objective: Basic or applied research in discipline-specific areas
Faculty and/or students will engage in basic or applied research in discipline-specific areas of concentration.

a. Measure: Aquire funding for research in all areas
Individuals will seek funding in order to conduct research that leads to further study and/or projects/services. Research conducted will have primary emphasis placed on subjects that identify or meet the educational, social, cultural, and economic needs of the region. The Office of Sponsored Programs will assist faculty and staff in submitting grant proposals for external funding. Internal grant programs such as the Teaching Excellence Grants, Service Learning Grants, and University Research Grants will provide some internal funding for research.

1. Achievement Target:
Secure funding for basic or applied research proposals and projects in discipline-specific areas of concentration.

2. Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Met
The College of Math and Sciences received two grants for discipline specific work. These grants totaled $117,861 and the topics were "ID Farm Level Risk Factors for Aeromonas Hydrophila" and "Characterization of the Three-Way Symbiosis Associated with Plant Heat Tolerance." Internal funding for discipline came from the University Research Grants program. Seven grants were funded by
this program totaling $5,700. The following grants were funded: Dr. Mark Davis Station 22 PTSD Treatment for Veterans: Preparation, Training, and Contacts for a Department of Defense Grant Application $300 Dr. James Lamb Fossils and Geology of Alabama, Audubon Society and University of Alabama Press Total Amount Requested: $1000 Dr. John McCall Impact of BP Oil Spill on Salt Marsh Fish Communities on the Alabama Coast Total Amount Requested: $1000 Dr. Jeffery Merida MIP-1 Beta Expression in AIDS Associated B-Cell Lines Total Amount Requested: $1000 Dr. Mustafa Morsy Stress Tolerant Plants and Associated Fungal Endophytes of the Black Belt Total Amount Requested: $1000 Ms. Jessica Smith Pattern Merge Total Amount Requested: $400 Dr. Rob Riser The Litigious Mr. Washington Total Amount Requested: $1000 Dr. Xin Wu Development of Small Molecule Inhibitor of Aurora Kinase Total Amount Requested: $1000 Mr. Carey Moore Astronomy Before the Telescope Total Amount Requested: $911.58

3. Action Plan:

Increase funding of federal grant applications
The Office of Sponsored Programs will work to submit a greater number of federal proposals and offer faculty and staff more workshops on federal applications and federal grant writing techniques.

Established in Cycle: 2011-2012
Implementation Status: Planned
Priority: High
Implementation Description: Office of Sponsored Programs will work to increase workshops for faculty and staff
Responsible Person/Group: OSP

b. Measure: Research in discipline-specific areas
Faculty and/or staff will design and implement basic or applied research in discipline-specific concentrations to further the study and/or projects/services in particular areas of interests.

1. Achievement Target:
Research efforts will lead to publication, presentation, scholarly papers, or services/projects.

2. Findings (2011-2012) - Target: Partially Met

Accounting, Finance, and Economics: 2011-2012:

Scholarly Research
Three faculty members conducted 11 research projects. Topics included: online gaming, virtual world economics, effects of college football games on enrollment, criminal justice, international business performance, and Seoul studies.

Publications
One faculty member submitted six articles that were published. One faculty member is currently writing a book. One faculty member is presenting three papers at a dissertation defense.

Presentations
One faculty member made two presentations at two conferences.

Computer Information Systems and Technology: 2011-2012:
Scholarly Research
Two faculty members submitted 19 research projects. Topics included economics for law enforcement, hybrid CPU/GPU parallelization of a pseudo-spectral solver, detection of harmful algal blooms in the Gulf of Mexico region, automatic building detection in urban areas using multi-angular very high resolution satellite images, and characterizing levees using polar metric and interferometric synthetic aperture radar imagery.

Publications
Two faculty members submitted 12 articles that were published. One faculty member is writing a book.

Presentations
Two faculty members made 13 presentations at six conferences.

Biological and Environmental Sciences: 2011-2012:
Scholarly Research
Six faculty members conducted 23 research projects. Topics included the Tombigbee River, identifying sources of pathogen contamination in upper Fish River, measuring marsh plant productivity, the induction of cytokines by B cells, salt and water stress in plants, viral infection rules across kingdom crosstalk, discovery of fungal endophytes associated with the environmental stress tolerant plants in Alabama, and butterflies at the University of West Alabama.

Publications
Two faculty members wrote 11 publications: One faculty member wrote two manuscripts and co-authored a third manuscript. One faculty member published 8 articles.

Presentations
Four faculty members made 11 presentations at 11 conferences.

Mathematics: 2011-2012:
Scholarly Research
Two faculty members conducted two research projects. The topics were "Twisted Tensor Products of Quiver Algebras" and "Capping the Variance of Cash Flow of Hedging Strategy."

Publications
One faculty member submitted a scholarly research paper.

Presentation
One faculty member presented at a conference.

Physical Science: 2011-2012:
Scholarly Research
One faculty member conducted a research projects. The topic was "Effects of Chemical Modification of Staphylococcal Nuclease."

Publications
No publications were submitted.

Presentations
One faculty member made three presentations (of the same research topic) at three conferences.

Physical Education and Athletic Training: 2011-2012:
Scholarly Research
One faculty member conducted two research projects. The topics were "Increased plasma levels of soluble vascular endothelial growth factor receptor in women by moderate exercise and increased plasma levels of VEGF in overweight/obese women" and "Plasma Estradiol Concentrations at Rest and Exercise in Obese and Lean Women".

**Publications**
A faculty member had an article published in a scholarly journal.

**Presentations**
A faculty member made a presentation at a conference.

**History and Social Science: 2011-2012:**

**Scholarly Research**
One faculty member conducted a research project. The research led to the publication of an article in Alabama Law Review.

**Publications**
One faculty member had an article published.

**Presentations**
No presentations were made.

**TOTAL FOR 2011-2012**
Scholarly Research = 64
Publications = 26
Presentations = 38

3. **Supporting Documents**
University Research Map

4. **Action Plan:**

1. **NSM Faculty Forum for Teaching and Research**
   In order to encourage continuous enhancement and accountability for research, the College of Natural Science and Mathematics will host a Faculty Forum for Teaching and Research. Faculty within NSM will speak to other faculty and students on different topics in order to present research findings and encourage more research in a variety of areas.
   **Established in Cycle:** 2010-2011
   **Implementation Status:** Planned
   **Priority:** High

2. **URS@NSM**
   Undergraduate Research Symposium @ Natural Sciences and Mathematics (URS @ NSM) - Independent research represents unique learning strategies for many students. Undergraduate Research in NSM is an integral part of student learning. The intense immersion activity of undergraduate students in research helps them to develop their scholarly pursuits. NSM faculty pay special attention in helping interested students identify and approach areas of research. The faculty take pride in the process of refining their student's interests into more focused project topics. Held over Spring Assessment Day, the URS@NSM is an opportunity for undergraduates to present their research, creative projects to the broader university community. Undergraduates from all STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines present their current and recent academic projects, showcasing the diversity of
topics, approaches, and interests. The symposia will also serve as a resource for undergraduates. Those who are not yet engaged in these pursuits can learn how fellow students developed their intellectual interests, current projects, and faculty or community connections. Finally, URS@NSM is a portal to provide occasions for students, faculty, staff, prospective students and alumni to witness how student projects enhance faculty work and also serve the greater community.

Established in Cycle: 2010-2011
Implementation Status: In Progress
Priority: High
Implementation Description: Undergraduate Research Symposium @ Natural Sciences and Mathematics. This celebration of undergraduate research will be held on March 13th, Spring Assessment Day in 2012 to showcase undergraduate student research. Students are encouraged to present their research in poster form and will be peer-reviewed by an advisory group of faculty in NSM. The best three posters will be awarded prizes. All participants will be given certificate of appreciation. Web site will be launched shortly.
Projected Completion Date: 03/15/2012

II. Other Plans for Improvement

A. OSP Community of Scholars
The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) will conduct a two-day retreat to teach faculty important ways of becoming more prolific in scholarly writing efforts. During the retreat, participants bring a rough draft of their writing and learn a technique for meaningful feedback. Every scholar can become more productive through a few easy steps. The Community of Scholars Retreat is a two-day interactive and participatory workshop of 30 faculty members. The retreat, led by a well-known expert, will focus on scholarly and professional writing skills. Participants will form small communities as the strategy to encourage participation and increase writing productivity. Each small group will meet weekly for six weeks (working lunches count) and email each other. Each Community Scholar will complete an article for publication following steps learned during the retreat. The follow-up session will allow the Communities of Scholars to evaluate one-day work, compare notes, and create a definitive schedule for publications.
Established in Cycle: 2010-2011
Implementation Status: Planned
Priority: High
Projected Completion Date: 01/30/2012
Additional Resources Requested: 30 faculty/staff 2 days of training Cost: $7,950 (consultants, supplies)
Budget Amount Requested: $7,950.00 (recurring)

B. OSP Magnificent Seven
The Office of Sponsored Programs will chose seven faculty members completing the Community of Scholars will be eligible for an extensive six-session grantwriting program. Selected participants will formulate an idea and identify the funding source prior to attending the ninety-minute weekly sessions. The Magnificent Seven will write a complete grant application during the series. Using a selected Request for Proposal (RFP), members will develop each section with one-on-one assistance
from experienced grant writers. The small group will have the opportunity to interact and learn from each other. The end result is a submittable grant application with budget and sample documentation. The grantwriting process will be fostered by direct interaction with a successful awardee through Wikispaces and/or chat rooms. The Magnificent Seven is a hands-on series of workshops for faculty willing to commit to total participation and dedication. Only seven faculty members will be selected. Members will receive a stipend of $500 for completion of all sessions.

**Established in Cycle:** 2010-2011  
**Implementation Status:** Planned  
**Priority:** High  
**Additional Resources Requested:** 7 Faculty/Staff 6-90 minute sessions  
**Cost:** $10,300 (consultants, supplies, participant stipend)  
**Budget Amount Requested:** $10,300.00 (recurring)