



FISCAL YEAR 2018 PLANNING DOCUMENT

Educating Illinois 2013-2018, Individualized Attention, Shared Aspirations

By acting on the Mission, Values, Goals, and Strategies of *Educating Illinois*, the Stevenson Center will advance the University's and its own mission to provide a quality educational experience and service to communities throughout the world.

From *Educating Illinois 2013-2018*:

- The Stevenson Center's curriculum requires "...student learning and development inside and outside the classroom."
- The Stevenson Center serves "...the region, state, nation, and world through its commitments to responsible stewardship, meaningful civic engagement, cultural enrichment, and the development of global citizens."
- The Stevenson Center prepares "...students to excel in a globally competitive, culturally diverse, and changing environment."

Like Illinois State University, one of the Stevenson Center's core values is civic engagement. The Center:

...prepares students to be informed and engaged global citizens who will promote and further the goals of society. The University promotes active learning experiences through which students will gain an awareness and understanding of civic engagement as a lifelong responsibility. The University partners with business, industry, government, and educational entities providing leadership in local, statewide, national, and international initiatives; expanding service and outreach; and enhancing financial support for instructional, scholarly, and service activities.

Symbiotically, the Stevenson Center educates students through their service to communities; we serve communities through the work of our students, staff, and faculty.

I. OBJECTIVES

These objectives flow from our 2016 IBHE Program Review process.

- A. Ensure Stability of Graduate Programs: With the closure of the Master's International Program nationally, our first priority is making sure that our Peace Corps Fellows and ACED Fellows Programs are strong. We will focus on recruitment and placement of 12 Fellows per cohort. These experienced development professionals will populate the courses of our affiliated departments; they will be teaching assistants and mentors in Illinois State's undergraduate classrooms. These students will serve local community agencies and organizations elsewhere in the U.S. Recruitment efforts include diversifying our cohorts and improving branding, such that it plays to our strengths. We will continue to adapt the placement process such that it remains effective for students, hosts, and staff while navigating shifts in state and federal policy. More frequent and deeper contacts with alumni will be integral to both recruitment and placement efforts. Using feedback from students and faculty, we will continue to build the ACED sequence in anthropology and in kinesiology and recreation. The Curriculum Committee, in consultation with the Executive Committee, will determine the best timing for more substantive updates to the ACED sequence in relation to the other changes the Stevenson Center is navigating. At a minimum, we will explore ways to increase interdisciplinary and applied aspects within the current academic structure.

- B. Grow the Connection between Illinois State Undergraduates and Peace Corps: Working with partners on campus, the goal is to create a solid foundation for the new Peace Corps Prep Program. To date, over 25 students applied for Prep (exceeding our year-one target), and more attended orientation sessions. With support from our campus recruiter, the most active are forming an RSO to build leadership skills and provide mutual support. We continue to learn what works best in engaging and empowering these students. This program will more closely connect our graduate students with undergraduates. We also plan to market our Fellows programs to Peace Corps Prep participants.

With funding from Peace Corps, we hired a campus recruiter in fall 2016. In FY18, we will meet or exceed all grant deliverables and establish a strong base for continued funding. We are extremely grateful to the Center for Civic Engagement and Service Learning for allowing the recruiter to locate in CCESL. We will partner with Milner Library, the Career Center, International Studies and Programs, the Visor Center, Research and Sponsored Programs, Grants Accounting, and Technology Support Services

so the second year is as successful as the first. While we do not yet know the number of new applicants to Peace Corps from Illinois State, there are 222 leads to date.

- C. Raise Research Profile: Our board's research committee will create an edited volume of revised capstone papers and theses that informs the community and economic development literature. Further, our role as a connecting point can lead to more opportunities for faculty, students, and staff to contribute to related fields of study.

Faculty engage in applied research, like that for McLean County's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Graduate students assist and the work often leads to capstone projects and theses. These are publishable manuscripts and one will begin the peer review process in the next year. In sum, we seek to "increase student participation in research..." and provide "...professional development opportunities for students" through "...applied research that benefits community partners" (*Educating Illinois, 2013-2018*).

- D. Update Strategic Plan: During Fiscal Year 2018, the Stevenson Center will update its strategic plan. Revisiting our mission and goals with stakeholder feedback will keep us on track, such that priorities and actions align.

II. PERMANENT FUNDING REQUESTS

We understand why permanent requests cannot be funded at this time. The items below represent what we see as permanent needs.

- A. Graduate Student Stipends: A strong financial package (per *Educating Illinois, 2013-2018*) is key to graduate student recruitment and stronger graduate programs. At one time, the Center received enough General Revenue funds to cover two paid graduate assistants in each of three affiliated departments. Those funds did not increase in five fiscal years. The difference between the current permanent amount (\$39,293) and that needed to fully fund two graduate assistants in ECO, POL, and SOA is = **\$11,721**.
- B. Director's Stipend: Thanks to the generosity of Academic Affairs, the Stevenson Center Director received 1.5 months of summer funding for each of the last eight years. *Thank you*. In support of the Stevenson Center's mission, the Center's students, and growth of the program, the director works throughout the academic year. One course release each semester is provided by our affiliated departments. The director secures external funding such that half of the summer is covered. We request that Academic Affairs

provide permanent funds, covering the other 1.5 months of summer salary. For Fiscal Year 2018, the cost is $\$7,876 \times 1.5 = \mathbf{\$11,814}$.

III. STRATEGIC BUDGETED CARRYOVER

IV. PROVOST ENHANCEMENT REQUESTS

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V. PERSONNEL REQUESTS—NEW TENURE TRACK FACULTY

VI. PERSONNEL REQUESTS—TENURE TRACK FACULTY, NON-REAPPOINTMENT