

XIII. Executive Summary

Major Accomplishments / Goals Achieved in 2013-2014

- **Academic Service-Learning**

- Continued to offer in Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 a STEM Educational Program for a local non-profit after-care program, Pearl City CATS, utilizing the FAU Community Garden in partnership with an Academic Service-Learning faculty member and one A S-L student in addition to FAU student volunteers. Chartwells sponsored the four Garden beds used in the STEM Ed Program.
- Offered a Fall 2013 Stipend for faculty to incorporate A S-L into their course(s); two faculty members received the stipend and represented the College of Science and the College of Arts & Letters.
- Academic Service-Learning continued to be offered in 89 courses through FAU's campuses. While this is a slight 3% decrease over the prior year, the overall program continues to remain steady with slight +/- fluctuations year over year.
- Provided in total 43 classroom presentations focused on What is Academic Service-Learning? and/or NobleHour usage for the electronic tracking of Academic Service-Learning hours

- **Civic Engagement**

- Secured nearly \$31,000 in funding to sponsor a successful 13th year in the Summer Food Service Program, providing 12,800 breakfast and lunch meals to children in need
- Expanded an annual Summer Reading Program, an extension of the Summer Food Service program, to include a second agency to assist with preventing reading loss experienced by children during the summer months. Participants included 19 FAU students and 48 second and third graders from the local Pearl City CATS and Westside Park summer camps.
- Expansion of the Alternative Breaks Program:
 - Alternative Spring Break expanded in its 8th year to include five site locations, one faculty participant, six student site leaders, leadership training in conjunction with Student Involvement and Leadership, reflection training, multiple fundraisers that yielded \$839 of additional funds for the trips, five pre-ASB Days of Service, and two post-ASB Days of Service. The five trips focused on the issues of kids' empowerment in Miami, FL; youth development in Lakeland, FL; animal welfare in Sarasota, FL; environmental conservancy in Naples, FL; disaster recovery and rebuilding in Atlantic City, NJ.
 - Florida Immersion Trips (FIT) continued to be offered under the Alternative Breaks umbrella, increasing from three to four site offerings. FIT are a two to three-day weekend immersion trip within Florida to address a community issue. Four trips took place in 2013-2014 to St. Petersburg, West Palm Beach, the Everglades, and Boca Raton to address affordable housing and homelessness, HIV/AIDS, environmental conservancy, and hunger, respectively.
- Hosted the 2nd annual University-wide FAU Day of Service to kick off Homecoming week with 161 student and staff volunteers providing service to 5 non-profit organizations: Quantum House, Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, Equine Assisted Therapies, YMCA, and Palm Beach County Food Bank. This was a 116% increase in participation over last year due to the collaboration with Student Involvement & Leadership and their integration of participation as part of Homecoming competition for student organizations.
- Collaborated with the CLASS office to host Freshman Service Hour for freshman in SLS classes. 391 freshman participated in a one-hour service project on campus with four different projects from which to choose.
- Hosted over 280 local children from the Spirit of Giving Network of agencies for an annual Holiday Party on the Housing Lawns
- Continued collaboration with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and SAVI for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service where 61 FAU students and staff volunteered at the African American Research Library and Frog Alley Community Garden
- Implemented a Fall semester month-long focus of Hunger awareness to observe September as Hunger Action Month. Events and programs offered included a film showing, canned food drive,

service project of sorting donated goods at a local warehouse, and a hunger banquet. The first three were in collaboration with FAU's Interfaith Programming student government program and the community-wide Feed My Community campaign whose purpose was to bring attention to hunger in the community and stock the local food pantries. In total, over 100 students participated in the events throughout the month. The Hunger Banquet saw a 14% increase in participation over prior year with 73 attendees, including students, staff, and community partner guest speaker and staff.

- Awarded 45 undergraduate and graduate students with a Volunteer Service Cord to be worn at Commencement as recognition of their dedication to service throughout their college years. This represents a 36% increase over prior year. Over 21,000 volunteer hours were completed by the awardees during their college career.
- Provided 12 classroom presentations focused on Weppner Center Resources and Opportunities for community service. This represents a significant increase of 140% over prior year on faculty requests to promote Weppner Center services and civic engagement opportunities to students.

- **Other**

- Participated in an external review of the Weppner Center department
- Co-Advised the Dance Marathon club on hosting the 2nd annual Dance Marathon at FAU Boca Raton campus. The event raised nearly \$6,000 to benefit Shands Hospital.
- For the third year, continued to co-lead and organize South Florida institution members of Florida Campus Compact to address South-Florida specific needs and issues of the area as well as share best practices and begin to collect data on the impact brought to the community through each institution's efforts
- Continued as a Community Partner to the Spirit of Giving Network, attending monthly meetings and supporting the annual Back to School Bash and Holiday Giving Tree of gift wishes

Major Challenges

- Minimal infrastructure and resources to support department's growth over past five years, including holistic support of current programs and services with timely marketing and quality assessment.
- Majority of department remains on an E&G Budget rather than moving to a more traditional Campus Life A & S budget-structured office
- University-wide support for Academic Service-Learning to create more reach to faculty
- Engaging staff and faculty in civic engagement in the community with limited resources to become an engaged University for future Carnegie Community Engagement Classification
- Involvement of Alumni in community service alongside FAU students

Goals for 2014-2015

- Establish an Advisory Board for guiding civic engagement and Academic Service-Learning initiatives
- Strengthen FAU's Academic Service-Learning Program in STEM and non-STEM areas
- Begin working toward Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement
- Strengthen the Alternative Breaks Program
- Increase student, faculty, and staff participation at University-wide Days of Service
- Increase divisional sustainability efforts toward a more "green" division
- Jupiter Campus
 - Increase student participation in Alternative Spring Break (ASB)
- Broward Campuses
 - Complete a self-assessment via CAS.
 - Make sure the leadership transition is smooth and without gaps
 - Increase participation by 10%