



Budget Request Form FY2015

Department should complete one form for each individual request

Department: Student Activities

Program, Service, or Operation Requested

Service-Learning & Volunteer Services

SAFAB Use Only	
YES	NO

General Description:

Service-learning and volunteer programs are central elements of the Department of Student Activities Leadership and Service Center. Initiatives in this area focus on service-learning, volunteerism, and social justice. Our area touches both the curricular and co-curricular sides of the university as well as community partners in the Brazos Valley. We work with faculty colleagues to integrate service-learning in their course curriculum along with guiding students to locate service homes and learn from those experiences.

Request Type: Full Increase One-Time Partial/Matching

Type of Funds Requested UAF Other

General Questions:

Why is this important to your department? How does this increase impact students, and what motivated this request?

Service-learning is considered a high impact practice and is in alignment with the initiatives outlined in Texas A&M's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Every student must complete three high-impact practices as a result of the QEP. Furthermore, our area is the central point that interfaces with local community partners in an effort to connect Aggie volunteers with agency needs in the Brazos Valley. Furthermore, we have hosted a service forum the past two years to bring together student leaders who have a service mission or service component tied to their organization. This has been an excellent forum for students to exchange ideas and potential partnerships.

Is it part of your strategic plan? What will be the impact if it is not funded?

Yes, securing funding to ensure the stability of these programs is in alignment with our strategic goals for the area. Currently, these service focused initiatives are funded through non-reoccurring/temporary funds. Funds for service initiatives will run out within the next 2-3 years and without support this will tremendously impact our community partners (e.g. non-profits) in the local area and student resources when locating service sites.

How do other sources of funding (fundraising, sponsorship, reserves, etc.) been considered? Please explain.

We have developed a comprehensive development brochure as well as made this need known to the Division of Student Affairs Development officer. The Department has hired a Development Coordinator to focus on specific needs for our units. Once this individual is in place, we will continue to strategize donors, grants, and other ways to seek funding. The programs are currently being funded from reserve funds.

What sort of input did you receive (student, faculty, staff, other) to determine this need?

Annually, we have approximately 40 non-profits attend our annual Volunteer Opportunities Fair. Over 100 guests attend our Community Agency Breakfast which includes community partners, faculty, staff, and current students. This is an excellent opportunity to network and provide resources so that we can better connect our faculty and students to needs in our local community.

Volunteer Opportunities Fair

- Community Partners:
 - 100% of participants in the Volunteer Fair reported that they made connections with students that they believe will result in committed volunteers (n=17).
- Students:
 - 97.5% of students shared that they learned about new opportunities that they did not know of prior to attending the Fair.
 - 75% of students shared that they will volunteer at one of the organizations represented at the fair (n=79).

Community Agency Breakfast

- Community Partner:
 - The breakfast provided me with a “chance to meet other agencies and see how we can work together.” Another agency representative shared that they appreciated making connections with faculty.
 - 95% agreed to strongly agreed that they made valuable connections with representatives from other community agencies.
 - 70% agreed to strongly agreed that they made valuable connections with faculty.
- Faculty:
 - 100% of faculty participants agreed to strongly agreed that they made valuable connections with representatives from community agencies.
 - 100% shared that they will use AggieServe, our online service database, to locate service-learning opportunities for their courses.

What actions have you implemented internally to address the identified need?

In the past, we used to pay for parking for the participants at the Volunteer Opportunities Fair, which was between \$700-\$900. We are no longer paying for parking. As mentioned previously, we have developed a comprehensive development brochure as well as made this need known to the Division of Student Affairs

Development officer. The Department has hired a Development Coordinator to focus on specific needs for our units. Once this individual is in place, we will continue to strategize donors, grants, and other ways to seek funding.

Generally, what assessment tools will you use to evaluate this program/service?

We work with Student Life Studies to gather assessment data on all the programs and services we provide. Typically, this is in the form of surveys, but we also gather data for our Service-Learning Faculty Fellow program through qualitative reflections and focus groups.

Funding Description:

	Dollar Amount
Total Estimated Cost	\$21,250.00
Undergraduate Studies & Center for Teaching Excellence (Service-Learning Faculty Fellow Program)	-\$15,000.00
Service-Learning and Volunteer Initiatives	.
<i>Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if applicable)</i>	
TOTAL UAF INCREASE REQUEST	\$6,250.00

SAFAB Comments/Notes: