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Student Affairs Fee
Advisory Board
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Funding Request Form FY2021

Department should complete one form for each individual request

Department:

Counseling & Psychological Services

Program, Service or Operation Requested:

Student Development Specialist II

General Description:

It is our mission to assist in the creation of a healthy campus environment through community awareness, stigma reduction and the fostering of emotional wellbeing as CAPS moves beyond our doors to work collaboratively and innovatively with the larger campus community. The requests for mental health related presentations continues to grow as faculty, staff, and students want information to help students with mental health issues. We also continue to receive a significant increase in the requests that directly provide students psychoeducational information that reflect our mission to focus on prevention and education related to mental health. CAPS needs a fulltime Student Development Specialist whose main function would be to focus on our prevention and education efforts.

Request Type:

Full Increase One-Time Partial/Matching

Type of Funds Requested:

UAF Other

General Questions

How does this address an important need and/or positively impact students?

CAPS is committed to reaching beyond our doors and connecting with the greater campus community. Our mission supports a community mental health approach that has the potential to impact a much greater number of students than only supporting a service delivery model of one on one counseling. We have over 64,000 students on our campus and we strive to continue to find ways to help as many students as we can with a variety of mental health concerns through outreach and prevention.

As a part of the Aggie community, CAPS values and celebrates the diversity of our students. We recognize that systems of privilege, power, and oppression can negatively impact students' lives, their adjustment to college, their mental health and overall wellness, and thereby their academic success. CAPS aims to provide opportunities for students to share and process their experiences as multicultural beings with various intersecting identities. This position will work toward connecting with marginalized groups on campus in support of increasing retention and graduation rates among those groups.

What department/Division strategic plan item does this support?

In the Division of Student Affairs Strategic Plan, there is a commitment to wellbeing. Within that commitment there is a specific goal to “Provide innovative training, programs, and services to students on wellness”. The position that we are requesting fits this goal perfectly.

Please provide data, evidence, and/or input (student faculty, staff, other) you gathered to help you determine the need for additional resources.

As we have shifted our mission to engage the whole of our Aggie community, CAPS has engaged over 30,000 student, faculty, staff and parents through our outreach and community engagement. A few of our numerous opportunities included: The Let’s Talk Series at DMS, New Student Conferences, Fish Camp, T-Camp and Resource Tables as well as presentations to Student Organizations and videos for classrooms. We can do more and should do more. We have had to turn down requests when our clinical demands increase. The position we are requesting will not have any clinical demands and will be available to continue to provide these outreaches, even during our busiest clinical times.

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

We have hired a Graduate Assistant to focus on our efforts in prevention and education. However, due to the hectic life of a graduate student, this position is often not available for the requests we receive. We also spend a great deal of time training as the turnover of Graduate Assistants is much higher than a fulltime Student Development Specialist. Additionally, our clinical staff provide a great deal of outreach during our slower clinical times, but cannot during our busy times. It is important to note that over the years our busy times keep increasing!

If funding is granted, what metrics will you use to evaluate success of this program/service/operation?

We will work with Student Life to create evaluations that reflect the quality of our programming. Currently we use several Qualtrics surveys to measure success of our Suicide Prevention presentations and our group and workshop programs. We will continue to develop these surveys.

Have other sources of funding (fundraising, sponsorship, reserves, etc.) been considered?

Please explain.

We are currently paying for all of our Graduate Assistants through the accumulated amount received in no-show charges over the first few years. We would like a stable financial source to support this permanent position.

Total Estimated Cost

Funding Description	Amount
Salary (\$40,000) + Benefits (\$18,542)	\$58,542
Professional Development Funds	\$2,000
<i>Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if Applicable)</i>	
TOTAL INCREASE REQUESTED	\$60,542