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This report outlines the key activities which occupied the attention of the Division of Academic Affairs during the 2005–06 year. This report details these activities within the framework of the five over-arching goals for Weber State University.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2005-06 YEAR

The Division of Academic Affairs:

- Added three new degree programs including WSU's fifth graduate degree.
- Created an Office of Community-Based Learning to promote service learning and civic engagement efforts.
- Continued to foster undergraduate research. For the second year in a row, a WSU student has been invited to present undergraduate research at the prestigious Posters on the Hill event. WSU sophomore Kalista Francom's research on the Indian Child Welfare Act was one of only 60 projects selected from more than 3,000 applications submitted nationwide.
- Consolidated the Scholarship Office and Financial Aid Office and recruited a new director with the goal of providing better support for students.
- Received over \$10.4 million in funding through the Office of Sponsored Projects including a \$1 million appropriation from the United States Congress for the Ott Planetarium to expand educational opportunities for students throughout the region.
- Was honored to have the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching select Professor Yasmien Simonian as the 2005 Utah Professor of the Year; this was the second time in three years a WSU professor was selected as Professor of the Year.
- At the March 23, 2006 meeting of the Faculty Senate, a motion to modify the constitution of the Faculty Senate by creating the Committee on General Education Improvement and Assessment passed unanimously.

GOAL #1--OFFER AN OUTSTANDING, LEARNER-CENTER EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN A MULTI-CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

NORTHWEST ACCREDITATION

One of the more important endorsements of the learning environment is external accreditation. The Northwest Accreditation Commission reviewed Weber State University in 2004-05. The report contained two formal recommendations.

The first recommendation concerned our general education program. The Northwest Commission recommended that we “regularly and systematically assess the general education curriculum, and document that assessment activities lead to improvement.” The second formal recommendation of the report was that, “improvement be made in the mentoring of part-time and adjunct faculty, as well as in expanding their professional development opportunities.” Of these two recommendations, the recommendation regarding general education received the most attention during the 2005-06 year.

Since the recommendation regarding General Education assessment was received in January 2005, Academic Affairs has sought to address the recommendation through a comprehensive approach. Noteworthy actions include:

Definition of General Education Goals

An ad hoc committee was convened. The ad hoc Committee’s charge was: “To create a clearly articulated, campus-wide collective conception of the qualities of a college-educated person through a series of campus-wide conversations.”

The full committee has met numerous times and has sponsored or conducted other activities as well. The committee members also reviewed relevant literature and discussed alternative models for general education programs.

Committee members conducted campus-wide discussions. The conversations solicited comments on the following questions.

- What do we want general education to look like at WSU?
- What is the purpose of general education?
- Should the general education program be unique and distinctive?
- What are the implications for articulation with other state institutions?

Committee members also collected data through a survey from the Ideal Baccalaureate Graduate. Once the individual forms were completed, individuals formed discussion groups and completed a group survey that was discussed by group members. Both individual and group survey forms were collected and comments entered into a word document listing all comments. As comments were consolidated into a single document, the ad hoc committee reviewed and analyzed the comments to develop a consensus regarding statements that would reflect expected outcomes for

ideal graduates. In total, 331 individual surveys were completed in the following venues: all academic colleges, Weber State University Student Association, Deans' Council, the Executive Committee of Faculty Senate, the entire Faculty Senate, the Board of Trustees, and the President's National Advisory Committee.

An interactive webpage of the survey form was also posted on the committee website that permitted faculty, staff and students to submit comments.

The committee developed and endorsed the following mission statement and outcomes for General Education at WSU.

The specific learning outcomes for the general education program are that the baccalaureate graduate be able to:

1. Create, understand, and convey ideas through writing, speaking, listening, visual media and information technology.
2. Gather appropriate information that will leverage their expertise, resources and experience.
3. Analyze information, carefully and thoroughly, to make well-considered, ethical decisions using the information relevant to the issues.
4. Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the diverse forms of aesthetic and intellectual expression within the arts and humanities.
5. Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of how the biological and physical sciences describe and explain the natural world.
6. Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the social and behavioral sciences, including the way people interact and relate to the world.
7. Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the logic of mathematical reasoning and the ability to perform mathematical operations.
8. Function as both a leader and a team member whether at work or in society in general.
9. Make principled, intellectually honest decisions using knowledge, respect, and ethical conduct with regard to diverse people, ideas, and cultures.

The ad hoc committee completed its charge and presented the mission and goals for the general education program to the Faculty Senate on April 22, 2005. The report of the committee was accepted by the Faculty Senate.

Creation of a Standing General Education Committee

In accordance with University Policy, all ad hoc committees may only exist for a short time. The ad hoc committee convened to address general education issues expired in May 2005. Importantly, there was no standing committee or other organizational unit with responsibility for the general education program.

The university curriculum committee reviews all curriculum proposals including proposals for general education courses.

The lack of clearly-defined responsibility for general education was clearly an issue. In light of this, the Faculty Senate sought to create a standing committee charged with responsibility for planning and assessment of the general education program.

In accordance with university policy, the creation of this committee required a modification of the Faculty Senate constitution, which requires two public readings of the proposed constitutional change and support by a 2/3rds majority vote of the Faculty Senate.

At the March 23, 2006 meeting of the Faculty Senate, a motion to modify the constitution of the Faculty Senate by creating the Committee on General Education Improvement and Assessment passed unanimously. The General Education Improvement and Assessment Committee is responsible for articulating the mission and goals for the General Education program and University core requirements, and reviewing these on a regular basis. In addition, the General Education Committee shall define the standards for the General Education program and oversee the assessment of the General Education program and University core requirements.

Mandatory Assessment and Placement for Incoming Students

Beginning spring semester 2006, all new students admitted will be subject to the new WSU's Assessment and Placement policy. Individuals may be required to take ACCUPLACER assessment test(s) based on their ACT scores.

One purpose of the policy is to gather base-line data for entering students which may be used for assessment purposes. A second goal of the assessment and placement policy is to help students succeed by placing them in math and/or English courses that match their skill level.

This new policy applies to the following three groups of students enrolling at WSU for the first time beginning spring semester 2006 (January 2006):

- 1) New freshman
- 2) Transfer students with fewer than 30 semester hours of credit
- 3) Some transfer students with more than 30 semester hours of credit depending on GPA, earned AA or AS degree, and completed math and/or English courses

All students affected by this policy must enroll in and not withdraw from their initial developmental course(s) within the first two semesters. These students are then required to enroll in developmental course(s), and make progress each subsequent semester (excluding summer), until the relevant minimum degree requirements have been met for the students' declared degree program. Students with questions regarding test results and initial course selection are encouraged to meet with their academic advisor. Exemptions for students unable to enroll in developmental courses will be considered on a case-by-case basis through the Academic Advisement Center.

Assessment through the Collegiate Learning Assessment

Beginning September 2006, we began using the Collegiate Learning Assessment CLA to assess first-year students. The following spring semester, seniors were assessed with the CLA. The CLA assesses learning outcomes which are consistent with those identified by the WSU General Education Task Force (e.g. critical thinking, analytic reasoning and written communication). The CLA evaluates students' ability to articulate complex ideas, examine claims and evidence, support ideas with relevant reasons and examples, sustain a coherent discussion, and use standard written English.

Using Capstone Courses to Assess General Education

In order to sustain the current effort to assess and strengthen the general education program, Weber State sent a team to the American Association of College and Universities Greater Expectations Institute in June 2006. The team included faculty, the Provost and a member of the Board of Trustees.

The team's specific goals included: sustaining the momentum for the improvement and assessment of the general education program, making better use of data to improve our general education program, and more closely integrating the assessment of general education with existing academic processes.

During the Greater Expectations Institute, the team drafted an Action Plan for the 2006-07 year. One of the key goals of the action plan was to use senior capstone courses as a means to assess WSU's general education program. A pilot project is presently underway.

Adjunct Faculty

The second major recommendation of the Northwest Commission was that improvement be made in the mentoring of part-time and adjunct faculty as well as in expanding their professional development opportunities. The Commission also recommended that "clearly articulated policies and procedures for evaluation of part-time and adjunct faculty be developed, distributed, implemented, and assessed..."

After the Northwest visit, an Adjunct Faculty Task Force was formed and met throughout the 2003-04 academic year. The Adjunct Faculty Task Force made a number of recommendations for how to improve the development and mentoring of adjunct faculty. In addition, input was solicited from department chairs and deans. A number of recommendations have been implemented. These include:

- The establishment of an Adjunct Faculty web site to provide information for adjunct faculty. This site (<http://weber.edu/adjunctfaculty/>) is operational, and provides important information for WSU adjunct faculty.

- In fall 2006, the adjunct faculty web site was supplemented with an online video newsletter which delivers informational content to adjunct faculty via streaming video. <http://wiki.weber.edu/news/fall/06/>
- WSU's Teaching and Learning Forum initiated an annual Adjunct Faculty Retreat held each year in September. The purpose of the retreat is to provide useful information to adjunct faculty and to give adjunct faculty an outlet for discussing the various issues they face.
- Working with University Legal Counsel, standardized contract letters for adjunct faculty have been developed. The letter clearly outlines the expectations of adjunct faculty, the conditions of evaluation, and the terms of employment. The standard contract letters have been distributed to the academic colleges and are now being used.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

During the 2005-06 year, three new degree programs were approved by the Board of Regents: Associate of Science in Health, Bachelor of Philosophy, and Master of Health Administration.

The Master of Health Administration is WSU's fifth graduate degree. The degree is the only graduate program of its kind currently available in the state. The degree is tailored to meet the needs of health care supervisors and managers who are interested in pursuing executive leadership roles in hospitals and medical facilities.

Looking ahead to the 2006-07 year, there are plans to offer a cooperative degree with Utah State University in Electronic Engineering to meet the needs of Hill Air Force Base, local aerospace firms, and others.

HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED

During the 2005-06 year several significant initiatives were undertaken to foster student success. A system of required placement testing began in January 2006. The intent of the testing program is to better place students in developmental classes.

The Scholarship Office and Financial Aid Office were consolidated, and a new director for financial aid and scholarships was appointed. These improvements focus better upon serving students and making more effective use of scholarship and financial aid funding.

A MULTI-CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

WSU Davis

Weber State University is committed to the delivery of programs in multiple locations and in multiple formats. One of the most visible testaments to the commitment is the WSU Davis campus. During the 2005-06 year, the WSU Davis continued to evolve into a more fully-developed campus.

- A Nursing Practice Lab to support the Nursing program at WSU Davis was completed. Major funding for the project came from Davis Hospital and Medical Center.
- A Fitness Center at the Davis campus, complete with aerobic and strength training equipment was opened.
- A major revision of the WSU Davis website and the development of a new brochure and other communications and promotions materials were completed.
- A partnership with the Northern Utah Academy of Math, Engineering and Science was initiated. NUAMES plans to move its Davis County operations to the Davis campus in the Fall of 2007 and eventually partner with WSU in the construction of a new building on the Davis campus.
- A large, highly visible, high-tech electronic sign for the WSU Davis campus is slated for completion in the 2006-07 academic year.

The coming year also promises new growth in the graduate student population at WSU Davis, with the addition of Master's degrees in Health Administration and English. Both of these new graduate programs will be offered in the evenings at Davis and are targeted toward working professionals.

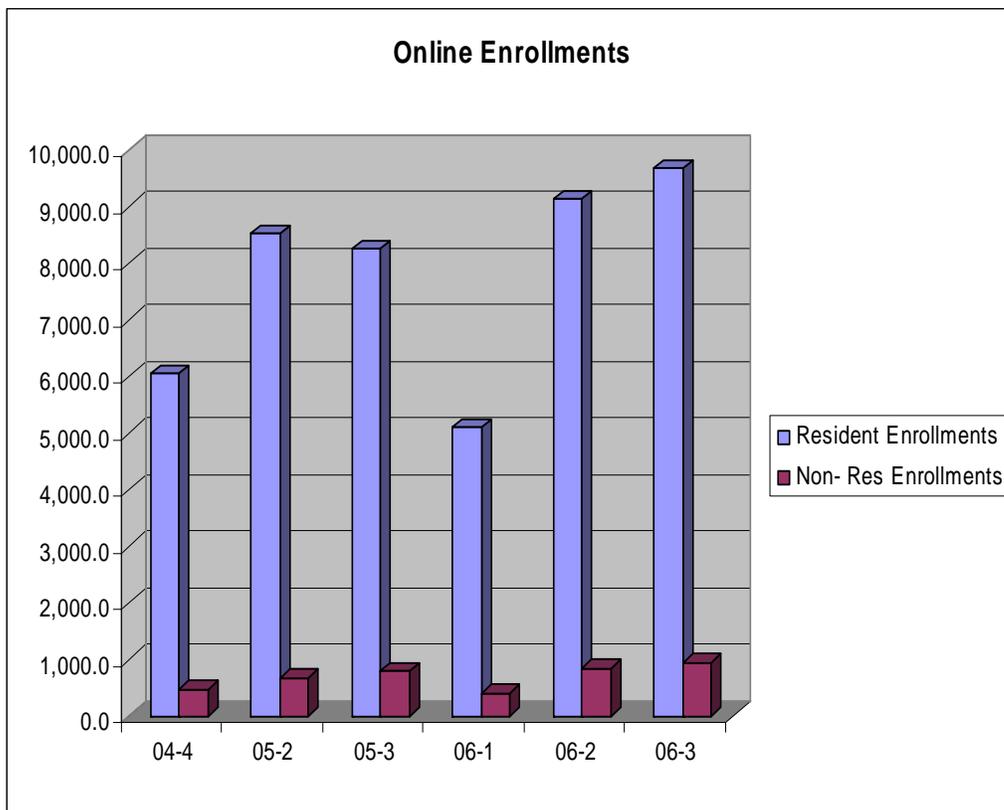
With the addition of these two graduate programs, a complete list of WSU Davis degree programs includes the following:

Davis Degree Programs	
Master's Degrees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Administration (MBA) MA English (Beginning Fall 2006) Health Administration (MHA)
Bachelor's Degrees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Administration Criminal Justice Elementary Education English Information Systems & Technology
Associate's Degrees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer Science Criminal Justice General Studies Information Systems & Technologies Nursing Respiratory Therapy

In addition to our efforts at WSU Davis, we provide courses and degree programs in multiple locations and formats. On November 2, 2005, the WSU West Center celebrated the new expansion of its physical facilities with an open house and ribbon cutting. The new expansion now occupies over 7,500 square feet of space and the West Center now boasts four classrooms with new state-of-the art instructional equipment.

Online Enrollments

Online course offerings are a significant part of WSU’s curricular options. Enrollment in WSU Online courses continued to increase. In 2005/06, we observed a 2.7% increase in non-resident enrollments and a 4.7% increase in resident enrollments, giving an overall SCH increase of 9.67% or 6,473 SCH. The overall number of online course offerings/sections increased as well as an increase of online instructors.



In large part, the increase in online enrollment came at the expense of conventional face-to-face classes. This was especially true for face-to-face classes, evening classes and off-campus classes funded through the Division of Continuing Education. Six of the seven academic colleges experienced a decline in CE-funded, face-to-face enrollment. The sole exception was the College of Science which experienced a very modest increase in CE-funded enrollment.

GOAL #2--CREATE AN INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND THE COMMUNITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY, ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS AND THE PHYSICAL CAMPUS

This past academic year also saw several major and minor remodeling projects which had a direct impact upon the Division of Academic Affairs. Perhaps the most significant development was the near completion of the Swenson Building Project. The design of the Arts and Humanities Building which will replace of Buildings 1 and 2 is now underway. This lays the groundwork for a significant addition of classroom and office space to the WSU campus.

GOAL #3--DEVELOP A CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT OF SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF

ENGAGEMENT OF STUDENTS

WSU has made the engagement of students and faculty one of its overarching goals. During the past academic year, there were increased opportunities for students to work collaboratively with faculty.

Community-Based Learning

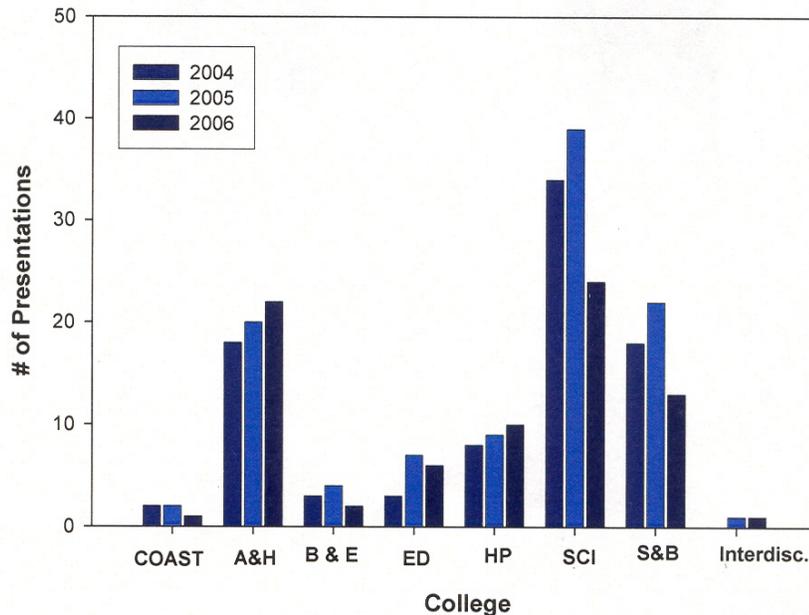
One of the most significant developments within Academic Affairs was the creation of a new position: the director of the Office of Community-Based and Experiential Learning. The goal of the Office of Community-Based and Experiential Learning is to encourage community-based service learning. Brenda Marsteller Kowalewski will serve as the first director of the Office of Community-Based and Experiential Learning. The following goals have been set for the 2006-07 year.

Office of Community-Based and Experiential Learning Goals 2006-2007

- Increase the current number of WSU students participating in the Americorp Education Award program.
- Collaborate with WSU's Coordinator of Community Service and student leaders to design a service scholar program at Weber State University. Move the proposal through the appropriate channels for approval.
- Create and employ a matchmaking system between service-learning faculty and community partners.
- Sponsor at least two faculty training events each semester to support existing and new service-learning faculty.
- Build infrastructure to support service-learning and community-based research at WSU.
 - Define the roles and responsibilities of the person in the director position.
 - Construct an advisory board to the position.
 - Define the mission of community-based and experiential learning.

Undergraduate Research

The Office of Undergraduate Research solicits requests for research and travel proposals from students. The number of student projects funded from each college is listed in the table at below.



In addition, the Office of Undergraduate Research provided two special travel RFPs; one was for students to attend the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Ashville, NC and the second was for students to attend the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) – Posters on the Hill in Washington, D.C.

A total of 22 WSU students presented research at NCUR. Students represented the following colleges; Arts and Humanities, Education, Health Professions, Science and Social and Behavioral Sciences. In addition, John Cavitt, Director of Undergraduate Research, made a presentation on “Running an office of undergraduate research: summaries of budgetary and personnel structures of existing programs” at the NCUR conference.

For the second year in a row, a Weber State University student has been invited to present undergraduate research at the prestigious Posters on the Hill event. WSU sophomore Kalista Francom’s research on the Indian Child Welfare Act was one of only 60 projects selected from more than 3,000 applications submitted nationwide. The Posters on the Hill event, sponsored by the Council on Undergraduate Research, is held annually to thank lawmakers for their support of federally funded scientific research and to demonstrate the results of that research at colleges and universities across the country. Last year, WSU zoology student Eric Gabrielsen was invited to share his findings on brine shrimp flies at the Capitol Hill event.

This year the Office of Undergraduate Research began offering grants to faculty that provide funds to pay student researchers. The intent of the grants is to facilitate the process of engaging students in research. This pilot project has worked very well and a total of \$10,000 was awarded to four faculty on campus. The grants are reviewed by the RS&PG committee on campus.

As a result, of these efforts, the Office of Undergraduate Research distributed more than \$150,000 in funds to support undergraduate research at WSU.

The third annual Undergraduate Research Symposium and Celebration was held on Monday, March 27, 2006. A total of 133 students participated with 78 posters and oral presentations. This represents a slight decline from the 2005 symposium. The reduction in participation may be explained by the timing of the symposium. The Office of Undergraduate Research received comments from faculty that the symposium is too early in the spring semester to accommodate all students. The Undergraduate Research committee will address these concerns in the coming year.

Finally, WSU continues to participate in the Council on Undergraduate Research through an Institutional Membership, and with 20 faculty/staff members. John Cavitt and Lauren Fowler were elected as Councilors for CUR during the fall of 2003 and continue to serve their three year terms. Brenda Marsteller Kowalewski and Chris Millard were elected councilors bringing the total to four.

SUPPORT FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

- The Weber State University Board of Trustees has approved the first group of Presidential Distinguished Professors at the university. Funding for the annual recognition program was made possible by a generous gift from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. The program was established as a way to recognize outstanding WSU faculty members who demonstrate the highest quality of teaching, scholarship, research and community service. Microbiology professor Craig Oberg, History professor Gene Sessions and Zoology professor Sam Zeveloff are the first faculty members honored as part of WSU's Presidential Distinguished Professors program. The trio formally received their awards at WSU's spring commencement exercises. Each will receive a cash prize of \$16,000, payable over four years, which may be used to further professional academic goals. Honorees also will retain the Presidential Distinguished Professor title throughout their tenure with the university. Upon retirement from WSU, "Emeritus" will be added to the end of the title.
- For the second time in three years, Utah's professor of the year teaches at Weber State University. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching named Yasmen Simonian as the 2005 Utah Professor of the Year.
- The 2nd Annual Faculty Forum was held on March 2nd, 2006 and included 21 oral presentations, 20 poster sessions, a panel discussion regarding publishing in scholarly

journals, and a string performance. Attendance was higher this year than last, and all evaluations received by the committee were positive. It appears that this event serves several functions; a) sharing of scholarship among WSU faculty and students, b) “dress-rehearsal” for national or regional professional presentations, and c) community recognition of the role scholarship plays at WSU.

- An adjunct faculty retreat was held on September 14, 2005 at 5:30 PM at the Alumni Center. Five presentations were given, all dealing with the many kinds of services for students that are available on campus. The main purpose for this event was to find out what kinds of topics adjuncts want to know about, but low attendance at the event prevented the gathering of much useful data. Following the event, committee members were asked to contact adjuncts in their departments and colleges to find out what types of support they would welcome.
- The New Faculty Retreat continues to be the most well-known of all the Teaching and Learning Forum projects. The 2005 retreat was held at The Homestead, Midway, August 16 and 17, 2005.

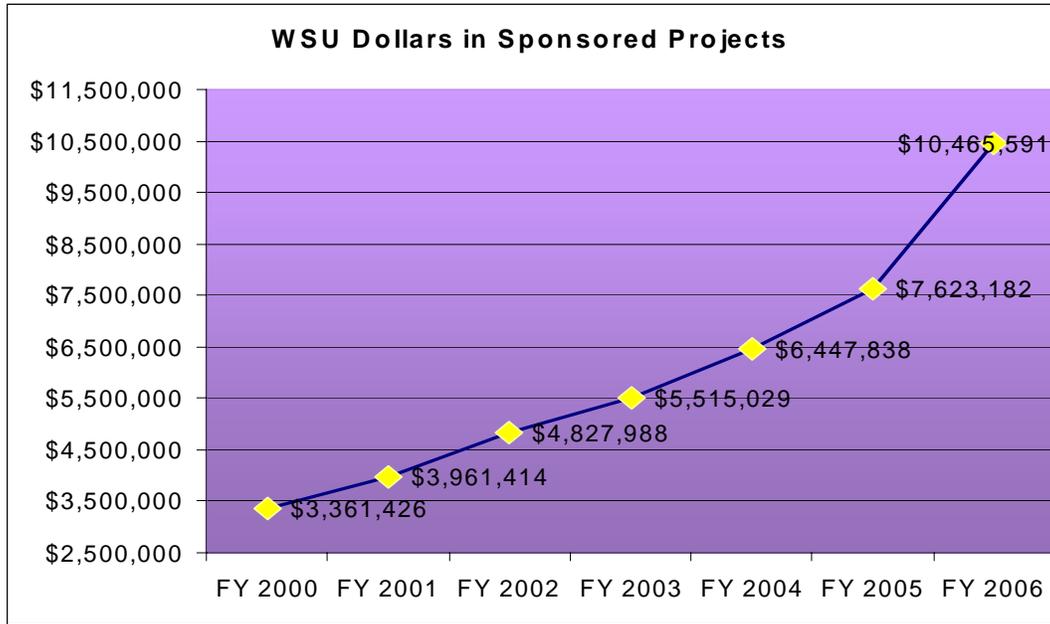
GOAL #4--FOSTER CONNECTIONS WITH EXTERNAL COMMUNITIES

- Project MESH, a federally-funded professional development grant from the Office of English-Language Acquisition (US Department of Education), generated an additional \$299,000 this year for the professional development of ESL teachers in Davis School District as they worked for ESL endorsements and WSU Master of Education degrees.
- The TAPT Program has continued to support minority, bilingual, and ESL para-professionals from Ogden, Weber, Davis, Box Elder and North Summit School Districts in their desire to work towards a university education and teacher licensure. The program graduated 7 students this past year, admitted 32 new students, and currently supports over 58 participants.
- The College of Applied Science and Technology continued its efforts to expand Project Lead the Way (PLTW) in the state as well as in the surrounding states. The number of students graduating from the program will start to have an impact on engineering and engineering technology enrollments in the state. The second PLTW conference for high school counselors was held in the fall and 95 people attended.
- With the new digital projection system in the Planetarium, much greater flexibility exists for programming. In addition to its more traditional star shows, the planetarium has been offering Spanish-language programming for the community.
- A three-day health careers exploration camp was offered this summer by Northern Utah AHEC and the Dumke College of Health Professions for approximately 80 high school students. The program received grant funding from the Hall Foundation.

- During 2005-06, 157 presentations relating to health professions were made by NUAHEC to 4578 public school students in 137 schools.

EXTERNAL FUNDING

The Office of Sponsored Projects experienced an increase of 37%, in the total amount of funding received, bringing the total dollars of managed projects to \$10,465,591. Growth in sponsored projects funding is depicted in following graph and table.



History

Fiscal Year	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Number of Proposal files opened by OSP	117	126	126	172	180	168	170
Number of Awards Received by OSP	82	104	92	94	116	132	145
Number of Dollars in Received Awards	3,361,426	3,961,414	4,827,988	5,515,029	6,447,838	7,623,182	10,465,591
Dollars Generated in F&A (indirects)	185,635	173,497	238,355	261,372	300,578	369,561	368,481

Projected Growth at 10% per Year

Fiscal Year	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Projected dollars growth at 10% per year:	11,512,150	12,663,365	13,929,702	15,322,672	16,854,939	18,540,433
Projected F&A at 10% growth per year:	405,329	445,862	490,448	539,493	593,442	652,787

GOAL #5--ENHANCE THE CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT THROUGH INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

- WSU Davis held a number of events to encourage and support an inclusive campus environment. These events include a January “Lunch and Learn” event commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr., and a February event celebrating Black History Month. A special outreach event (WSU Salutes You) was held in March targeting military students. A non-traditional student dinner was held in February, with 45 students and guests responding.
- During the past year, the WSU Davis Campus hosted a lecture and reception for Dr. Robert Jensen, one of the keynote speakers for the Diversity Conference. This evening event was attended by over 100 individuals, who heard Dr. Jensen speak on the topic of “White Privilege.”
- WSU Davis staff members have also been very involved in planning the WSU Diversity Conference, which will be held in October of 2006. Some of the conference events will be held at the Davis campus.