

# YSU 2020

## Cornerstone on Urban Research University Transition Executive Summary December 2013

Progress continues on a number of initiatives within the Urban Research University Transition Cornerstone. These initiatives impact undergraduate and graduate education as well as international students.

Expanding online options for students is an institutional priority for YSU, and distance learning is included in the University's strategic plan as a way to improve student satisfaction with academic and non-academic experiences. With seven fully-online programs officially up and running, in addition to three programs set to launch in Fall 2014, the Distance Education office is hoping to hire a Student Success Specialist to provide customer service and to assist in the retention of 100% online students. The person in this position would work together with the Director to assist students from point of inquiry through graduation with applying, enrolling, and navigating the University's processes and procedures from a distance.

The Office of Distance Education is also focusing on making sure YSU offers the highest quality online programs and courses to its students. Currently, YSU has 48 courses under development. These courses will be peer reviewed to ensure they are meeting the expectation of highest quality, pedagogically-focused online courses from faculty trained in the best practices of online teaching. Currently, 156 YSU faculty members have received this distance education training.

The pace of externally funded awards to University faculty and staff has been fairly brisk to date in FY2014. In the first quarter, 28 projects totaling approximately \$2.435 million were approved for funding. In addition, 26 new proposals for external funding were submitted, requesting a total of \$3.09 million. These projects have a wide variety of objectives, including research, public service, scholarships, and academic program development. The amount of funding awarded so far in FY2014 compares very favorably with the total awards of \$3.6 million for all of FY2013.

International student enrollment has stabilized after a period of significant growth. The Center for International Studies and Programs has expanded strategic representation partnerships and now has active representation in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and China. YSU's partnership with Chungbuk National University in Korea has recruited 2-3 Korean students for the past three semesters. International student applications reached an all-time high, with 70 new international students enrolling in fall 2013. In addition to working with the 192 degree-seeking international students, the English Language Institute enrolls an additional 46 pre-academic program students in a full-time, noncredit program of English as a Second Language, for a total of 238 international students.

An updated international student recruitment publication, which will provide YSU's partners and prospective international students with an exciting look at the university,

community, and offerings, is underway. Beginning in spring 2014, the Provost's Scholarship will be made available to international students in order to attract more international students with strong academic profiles. In February, YSU representatives will travel to China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam to recruit more international students.

Fifteen YSU students are spending fall 2013 on a study abroad program. Students are studying in Australia, Brazil, China, England, Greece, India, Italy, Russia, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, and the Semester at Sea. An additional 36 YSU students will travel to other countries (30 students to the Bahamas and six students to the Czech Republic) as part of YSU courses this term.

YSU's participation in the Credit When It's Due (CWID) initiative has resulted in many Ohio students gaining additional academic credentials. The Credit When It's Due initiative is a national grant program designed to facilitate the implementation and improve the process of "reverse transfer" degree programs. CWID represents a joint venture of several foundations including the Lumina Foundation for Education, The Kresge Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USA Funds, and The Helios Education Foundation. As explained in the CWID grant announcement, "The initiative is designed to encourage partnerships of community colleges and universities to significantly expand programs that award associate degrees to transfer students when the students complete the requirements for the associate degree while pursuing a bachelor's degree." According to reports from Ohio institutions, a total of 594 associate degrees and three certificates were awarded in Ohio via CWID, and more than 1,400 degree audits were performed as part of the process.