



**YOUNGSTOWN  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

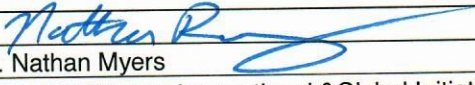
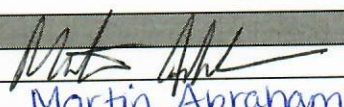
**Template for Strategic Investment Funding Proposals, FY 2018**

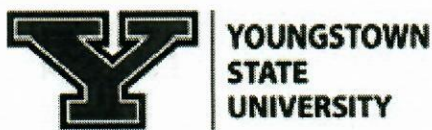
*Proposals must be submitted to the YSU Budget Office, no later than February 1, 2018*

**Section I: Proposal name and contact information**

Title / name of proposal:	International Campus Life Team
Contact person name and title:	Sheila Hernandez
E-mail address:	sjhernandez@ysu.edu
Phone number:	(330) 941-2336

**Section II: Approvals of the appropriate College Dean and/or Division Officer**

To certify that the proposal is aligned with the strategic objectives of the department, college or division, signature approvals are required by the appropriate Department Chair or Director, College Dean, and/or area division officer, i.e., Provost, Vice President, Associate VP.	
Signature of Dept. Chair or Director	
Name (printed/typed):	Dr. Nathan Myers
Title:	Associate Provost International & Global Initiatives
Date:	1/5/2018
Signature of Dean (if applicable):	
Name (printed/typed):	
Title:	
Date:	
Signature of Division Officer:	
Name (printed/typed):	Martin Abraham
Title:	Provost
Date:	1-31-18



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### Section II: Description of the proposal and its alignment with the YSU 2020 Strategic Plan

Please summarize the proposal and specify how it aligns with the YSU 2020 Strategic Plan.

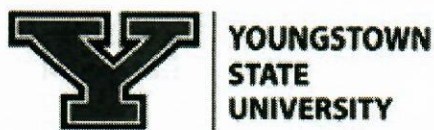
An innovative team of international students has been created recently by the International Programs Office at Youngstown State University. The team has been designated as the "United Penguins". Their purpose is to assist international students with their transition into life in the United States and, in particular, at Youngstown State University, through student work. In short, students are employed to implement solutions to the problems/issues faced here in Youngstown. They are devoted to making college a more meaningful experience by enhancing student involvement on and off campus through various activities and events throughout each academic year. There are four subgroups with the following responsibilities: activities/events, adjustment to campus life, transportation to and from campus, and marketing. This group of international students can prove to be an intricate part of Youngstown State University's plan to grow and become more diverse. We believe that we cannot simply bring international students to this campus and allow them to feel isolated and ignored. This leads to disenchantment and possible departure from our university. By helping these students feel that they are a part of something great, the United Penguins will definitely align themselves with the YSU 2020 Strategic Plan, focusing on student success and regional engagement.

### Section III: Shared governance and stakeholder engagement

Was the proposal developed collaboratively and with input from all stakeholders? Please describe the process used to develop your proposal.

This proposal was the creative idea of Dr. Nathan Myers, Associate Provost International & Global Initiatives. It was his concern that we needed to get the international students more involved in the YSU community. The idea was then introduced to the International Programs Office for feedback. The proposal was also sent to the President and Provost for review. Finally, the IPO assembled a group of international students to reflect and comment on the United Penguins. Based on this feedback, the IPO concluded that this initiative would directly address two pillars of YSU 2020 while improving the international student experience, retention and work opportunities. An application form explaining the program along with the request for information about the students was created and sent to the international students. We also asked them to choose one of the four areas of responsibilities that might interest them. Dr. Myers and I read through the almost one hundred applications, and we then met with seventeen outstanding international applicants.





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### Section IV: Return on Investment

If applicable, describe how the proposal may generate new revenue to support related expenses or other strategic initiatives. If there are benefits other than revenue-generation, whether tangible or otherwise, you may also describe those.

A major concern is the finances needed to adequately run the program each academic year. We anticipate that the United Penguins will generate higher international retention and spur recruitment efforts by improving the student experience. By providing a good cultural experience for international students, we envision a reduction in transfer students. Seventeen international students transferred out last semester. This amounted to a financial loss of about \$120,000 to the university. We would like to see this situation eradicated by providing work opportunities and cultural enrichment for our international population. The ability of our student team members to work and to see their accomplishments in the form of a paycheck helps to build character, bolster morale, and motivate them to encourage other international students to envision something worthwhile at YSU. It is not enough to simply bring students to Youngstown State University. We want students to realize a future here and remain long enough to obtain a degree.

**Section V: Proposed funding amount requested** (NOTE: Available strategic investment funds are one-time dollars left over from the prior fiscal year. Consequently, proposals requiring multi-year funding will require additional consideration.)

Single year funding request:	\$ 46,044.00		
Multi-year funding request (if applicable):	\$	No. of years:	

### Section VI: Space utilization and/or modification

If applicable, describe any special and/or additional building or space requirements that would be needed to pursue your proposal.

We do not necessarily need any special or additional building or space to pursue our proposal. The International Programs Office provides enough space for team meetings. However, I have also attached a detailed report on the the cost of the program in order to better understand the total requested.



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**Section VII: Personnel costs / additions**

If applicable, explain any additional costs associated with the need to add staffing and/or faculty resources required to pursue your proposal.

If there is a need to request chaperones from among the staff, the cost would be in accordance with the specific unions representing them. We would also consider using graduate assistants when needed, and that cost would be in accordance with minimum wage requirements.

**Section VIII: Enterprise risk management**

If applicable, describe the risk mitigated by your proposal, or the risk elevated if your proposal is not funded.

The efficiency and purpose of the program will obviously suffer a hardship due to a lack of funding. We are making a truly concerted effort to provide cultural enrichment in the lives of our international students while they attend Youngstown State University. The student leadership team is working very diligently to provide a solid program for our students. However, it is difficult when funds are not readily available. The quality of a program is always in jeopardy without the proper funding. In our case, the transportation of a large group of students becomes an immediate financial issue. We are dealing with so many students who do not have the means to pay for anything more than their tuition and housing. If at all possible, we would like to prevent this situation from being a stumbling block on the road to becoming active participants in the proposed activities and events structured to enhance university life.