

**Initiative Title:** Student Engagement

**Priority Ranking:** 1

**Strategic Goal:** Increase Student Engagement

**Description of Initiative:** We must expand our professional development activities and programming for both faculty and staff in order to promote and provide engagement strategies throughout the College community.

- Implement a four day class schedule (M/W or T/R). This would allow faculty to attend departmental and interdepartmental meetings leading to greater opportunities for engagement across the curriculum, learning community work, and best practice sharing. Fridays would also be used for formal professional development programming throughout the semester for both faculty and staff.
- Construct and implement a Professional Development calendar that can be accessed at the beginning of each semester.
- Formally document and monitor professional development activities for faculty and staff. This documentation will be used to develop best practices at Grayson.
- Implement an annual recognition that celebrates excellence in student engagement.

**Data supporting the need for the Initiative:** CCSSE Data shows that Grayson College is below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in several areas related to student engagement.

**Expected Outcome:** By 2016, we will improve all CCSSE benchmarks related to student engagement to at least the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. Those benchmarks currently over the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile must increase by at least 2%.

**Assessment Measure:** CCSSE Data Outcomes that focus on: learning communities, experiential learning beyond the classroom, and high impact practices.

**Potential Cost:**        \_\_\_ Low        X Medium        \_\_\_ High

**Recommended Responsible Party:** Dr. Jeanie Hardin, Dr. Tony Stanzo, Mr. Steve Davis, Mr. Leon Deutsch, all faculty, and all staff

**Initiative Title:** Community Engagement

**Priority Ranking:** 2

**Strategic Goal:** Increase Service Learning Involvement Campus and Community Wide

**Description of Initiative:** We must increase and expand our service learning requirements. Student engagement will increase as our students begin to take ownership in their programs of study, the College as a community, and in the county through the implementation of service learning projects. Service learning projects not only enhance the college experience for our students, but they serve the greater community as well.

- Creation of a communication forum for project based/service learning opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom. This forum would also be used as a reporting tool, so that departments/programs could share their experiences.
- Require departments to implement project based/service learning in specified courses and monitor the implementation for future planning and outcomes.
- Invite and encourage all college employees to participate in community functions both on and off campus. The communication piece is vital to this initiative as many of our employees already contribute their time and efforts to outside entities, but we are not always aware of these activities.

**Data supporting the need for the Initiative:** CCSSE Data related to: active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, applying theories or concepts to practical problems or new situations, encouraging contact among students from difference economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds.

**Expected Outcome:** Service learning opportunities would not only increase student engagement benchmarks, but would also serve the College and the community. These opportunities would expose our students to future opportunities in their intended fields of study while providing needed services to the area. Students would have opportunities to volunteer and/or intern in locations relevant to their intended certificate/degree leading to higher levels of engagement in their courses, on our campus, and in the community.

**Assessment Measure:**

**Potential Cost:**      \_\_\_ Low      \_\_X\_\_ Medium      \_\_\_ High

**Recommended Responsible Party:** Faculty, Department Chairs/Program Directors, Shelle Cassell, Jan Crumpton, Tina Dodson, Gregg Miles, Gretchen Huff

**Initiative Title:** Business and Industry Engagement and Partnerships

**Priority Ranking:** 3

**Strategic Goal:** Increase Business and Industry Partnerships

**Description of Initiative:** We must provide our students with more real world experiences and opportunities. Creating relationships with business and industry can lead to internships and future employment opportunities. Further, inviting businesses to take part in our campus community (Subway, Starbuck's, Barnes and Noble, etc.), not only offers employment opportunities for our students, but also enhances our College atmosphere by offering services to the entire community.

**Data supporting the need for the Initiative:** CCSSE data shows that part-time students are even less engaged than our full-time students.

**Expected Outcome:** Creating partnerships, both on campus and off, will allow all students to participate in service learning, volunteerism, and internships, which can lead to greater levels of engagement. We may also see greater numbers of students who stay on campus longer if outside services are housed on campus. This could lead to more active and collaborative learning opportunities.

**Assessment Measure:**

**Potential Cost:**      \_\_\_ Low      X Medium      \_\_\_ High

**Recommended Responsible Party:** Jan Crumpton, Gregg Miles, Chairs and Program Directors