

Student Success Initiative Year Three/Summative Report

As part of CSUSB's commitment to our students and our accountability regarding the use of their student success fees, it is important to periodically provide detailed, succinct information regarding how SSI funds were utilized to support specific outcomes-based programs, the intended goals and outcomes of those projects or programs, the measures used to assess said outcomes, the results of those measures.

Please use the following template when preparing your unit's Year Three/Summative Report for the SSI Executive Committee. Keep in mind this report should serve as both a summary of your Year Three activities, as well as a cumulative report of your project's/program's experience and results over the course of the entire three-year period since SSI funds were first allocated.

Reports will be due to **your respective vice president or dean by April 15**. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the completion of this report, please contact *Joanna Oxendine* via email at joxendin@csusb.edu.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Unit Receiving Funding: Office of Student Research

University Division: Academic Research

Name and Title of Person Responsible for Overseeing Your Department's SSI Activities: Jeffrey Thompson and Francisca Beer

Email Address and Extension: jthomps@csusb.edu; ext. 75315, fbeer@csusb.edu; ext. 73064

Name and Title of Person Preparing Report: Jeffrey Thompson and Francisca Beer

Email Address and Extension: jthomps@csusb.edu; ext. 75315, fbeer@csusb.edu; ext. 73064

SSI PROGRAM/PROJECT OVERVIEW: *(Describe the original overarching purpose, goals and outcomes of your SSI-funded project(s), program(s), etc. Bulleted lists and/or tables are encouraged.)*

The Office of Student Research (OSR) aspires to be known as a clearing house for all the research and creative activities undertaken at CSUSB. The OSR mission is to enrich the academic experience of all CSUSB graduate and undergraduate students by providing research and scholarly experiences in their chosen fields. Our vision is that the OSR will be regarded as the CSUSB entity that best encourages and supports students' inquiry, discovery, and creativity in all disciplines through faculty- student relationships, research, and creative activities¹. By doing so, the OSR will contribute to CSUSB's mission to offer a challenging and innovative environment to increase graduation rates, driven by teaching and research excellence, intellectual interaction and creativity².

The OSR was created in September 2011 by the Provost Dr. Andrew R. Bodman and Associate Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies Dr. Jeffrey M. Thompson. The OSR is located within the Office of Academic Research and the Director and Assistant Dean, Dr. Francisca M. Beer, reports to the Associate Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Jeffrey M. Thompson. Since Fall 2012, the OSR has a physical location in the Graduate Studies Office.

The OSR provides substantial benefits to students. Students involved in research and creative activity acquire academic skills that transfer directly and effectively to their coursework. A research component is a fast track to professionalism, both because it introduces students directly to the tools and methods of their disciplines, and because it gives them access to a community of scholars, researchers, and practitioners. Finally, being involved with research and creative activity provides valuable credential in the eyes of graduate programs and potential employers. To sum it up, the OSR helps undergraduate and graduate students advance their degrees

¹ Source: OSR Assessment Plan Spring 2013

² Source: CSUSB website

The goal of the OSR Assessment plan is to evaluate the OSR mission, vision, goals, objectives, and outcomes. The table below summarizes the assessment information. At this stage, surveys are developed and data is collected. As soon as data is analyzed, changes are implemented.

Table 1: OSR Goals & Outcomes

Goal/Outcome	How	Evidence
<p>GOAL (1) The OSR aims to assist students to understand and evaluate their progress toward being a successful college student.</p> <p>OUTCOME (1) Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ better use their personal skills and abilities ✓ better evaluate their strength and weakness. ✓ be motivated to be “good” students ✓ develop better view of themselves ✓ be better prepared to be intelligent and critical thinkers ✓ develop a sense of belonging to the CSUSB community 	<p>GOAL (1): How</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase presence of OSR in campus ✓ Organize symposium ✓ Organize CSUSB research competition ✓ Organize workshops ✓ Showcase best researchers on OSR website ✓ Motivate students by honoring them annually 	<p>GOAL (1): Evidence</p> <p>Longitudinal Survey of students and faculty’ Opinions will support outcomes</p>
<p>GOAL (2) The OSR wishes to assist students to communicate effectively and display professionalism.</p> <p>OUTCOME (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To increase initiative and confidence, likelihood of acceptance into graduate school and distinguish themselves for their peers. ✓ Students will also learn to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • share information with others • articulate ideas • reflect on future career • develop practical skills • value the contribution of others • show initiative • evaluate critiques 	<p>GOAL (2): How</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organize symposium ✓ Organize CSUSB research competition ✓ Organize workshops ✓ Provide funds for student research supplies and travel ✓ Provide statistical support ✓ Provide Poster support ✓ Provide Presentation support 	<p>GOAL (2): Evidence</p> <p>Number of participants in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Symposium ✓ CSUSB research competition ✓ workshops ✓ graduate schools ✓ pursuit a Ph.D ✓ apply for ASI/OSR funding
<p>GOAL (3) The OSR aspires to help students appreciate research and creative activities by being exposed to the outcomes of the various disciplines represented on campus.</p> <p>OUTCOME (3) Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ learn to put classroom knowledge into practice ✓ establish relationships with faculty and other student research ✓ benefit from stimulation that comes with critical thinking 	<p>GOAL (3): How</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organize symposium ✓ Organize CSUSB research competition ✓ Organize workshops ✓ Develop a student research journal ✓ Provide student research support (workshops, statistical support, poster prep) 	<p>GOAL (3): Evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ # of students in program that graduate ✓ # of articles in journal ✓ # of students participating at research conference ✓ # of students participating in symposium ✓ # of students attending workshops

<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ better understand research methodologies✓ increase their likelihood of getting accepted into graduate school✓ distinguish themselves from others✓ grasp the philosophy of lifelong learning✓ gain better understand of facts✓ develop familiarity with a subject✓ will discover new things examining and questioning the available information✓ start the process of integrating knowledge as a result of being exposed to an interdisciplinary knowledge		
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SSI-FUNDED ACTIVITIES: *(Please list and describe the activities undertaken for each year of the initial SSI allocation. If no activities were undertaken or funded for a particular year, please explain why.)*

Year 1 (Spring 2012- Fall 2012)

- **1st Annual “Meeting of the Minds” Student Research Symposium:** design and implement the first CSUSB Symposium, a conference where undergraduate and graduate students can showcase their research and creative activities through oral and poster presentations.
- **OSR Website and Facebook page:** the OSR webpage was created to showcase resources related to research funding, entry-tests preparation, community-based research projects, and other resources for student scholars.

Year 2 (Fall 2012- Fall 2013)

- **27th Annual CSUSB Student Research Competition:** organize the CSUSB research competition where graduate and undergraduate students present their research and develop their presentations skills. Selected participants are advanced to the state-wide CSU Research Competition.
- **2nd Annual “Meeting of the Minds” Student Research Symposium:** organize the second CSUSB Symposium, a conference where undergraduate and graduate students can showcase their research and creative activities through oral and poster presentations.
- **OSR Journal:** create a peer reviewed journal featuring undergraduate and graduate scholarly works.
- **Faculty Survey Report:** develop and implement a survey to capture faculty’s perceptions of graduate/undergraduate research and creative activities at CSUSB.
- **OSR Assessment Plan:** developed an Assessment plan to establish and evaluate OSR’s vision, mission, goals and objectives.
- **Workshops:** co-sponsor workshops aimed at providing information for students applying to graduate school and conducting research.
- **CUR (Council for Undergraduate Research) Conference:** Attend the CUR conference. A conference that promotes undergraduate research.
- **OSR Website and Facebook page:** update the OSR webpage.

Year 3 (Fall 2013- Winter 2014)

- **OSR Faculty/Student Grant:** design, implement and manage grants designed to facilitate the initiation and/or development of collaborative research or creative activity between students and faculty.
- **OSR Student Grant:** design, implement and manage grants designed to encourage student participation in research projects and creative activities outside of the traditional classroom experience.
- **ASI/IRP:** manage funds awarded to undergraduate and graduate students presenting at a conference, attending a conference, or conducting research for an independent study, academic course or honor’s project.
- **28th Annual CSUSB Student Research Competition:** organize the CSUSB research competition where graduate and undergraduate students present their research and develop their presentations skills. Selected participants are advanced to the state-wide CSU Research Competition.
- **OSR Journal:** continue to develop the OSR peer reviewed journal featuring undergraduate and graduate scholarly works.

- **OSR Website and Facebook page:** continue to update the webpage and Facebook page.

Additional activities are in the planning process. (e.g. Symposium, student survey) This report is covering the period of Fall 2013 to Winter 2014.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES: *(Describe the progress you have made each year toward your original SSI goals and outcomes. Indicate clearly how student success was enhanced by your program or service/s. Be sure to include the measures you employed and evidence/data you collected for each outcome where appropriate.)*

Year 1 (Spring 2012- Fall 2012)

Data collected by the OSR shows that within the first year, the office has started to work towards goals/outcomes 1 and 2 (see table 1) . Goals/outcomes 1 and 2 were measured by the tally of the number of applicants and the number of attendees at the OSR Symposium. During the 1st Annual “Meeting of the Minds” Student Research Symposium, the OSR had 27 oral presentations, 25 poster presentations, 18 volunteers, and 235 total participants.

Year 2 (Fall 2012- Fall 2013)

During the second year, the OSR has continued to make progress towards goals/outcomes 1 and 2. At the 2nd Annual “Meeting of the Minds” Student Research Symposium there were 43 oral presentations, 35 poster presentations, 27 volunteers, 32 faculty, and a total of 330 participants.

During the second year, the OSR also increased the number of activities and funding for our students and faculty. The office organized the 27th Annual Student Research Competition which had 26 presenters and 17 faculty judges and conducted 8 workshops with a total of 102 student participants. The OSR also implemented a faculty survey during the second year which included 377 surveys sent and a total of 65 responses. To increase funding for our students and faculty, student grants and faculty/student grants were created during the second year. One faculty/student grant was awarded in the amount of \$1500.00 and a total of 11 student grants were awarded totaling \$5,381.34.

The OSR has continued to work towards goals/outcomes 1 and 2 and has started working on goal/outcome 3. To evaluate these outcomes, the OSR designed multiple surveys.

Year 3 (Fall 2013- Winter 2014)

During the third year, the OSR has continued to work toward goals/outcomes 1 and 2, increasing the participants in research activities. In Year three the 28th Annual Student Research Competition included 28 student presenters and 17 faculty judges. The third annual Symposium will take place at the end of May.

The OSR has also continued to offer more opportunities for students to be involved with research and creative activities. The OSR journal had 15 student submissions and 23 editors for the Winter 2014 quarter. The OSR also granted 12 ASI grants and 13 IRP grants for the Fall 2013 quarter.

During the Fall 2013 quarter, the OSR has received a competitive CSU Chancellor’s Academic Student Success Program (CSU/ASSP) grant to design, implement and monitor a (1) Peer Consultant program, (2) Peer-Lab program, (3) Faculty Course Re-design program and (4) Faculty/Student Summer Research terms.

The OSR Peer Consultant program provides instructors with graduate students, the Peer-Consultant, whose assistance contributes to turn course assignments into research projects. The primary role of the Peer Consultant is to assist undergraduates as they design, carry out, analyze and disseminate the result of their projects. Specifically, the OSR Peer Consultants assist students with framing questions appropriate for the discipline, devise and conduct class investigations and report findings in writing and/or orally to the class and a broader audience.

The OSR Peer-Lab program is modeled after the Supplemental Instruction (SI) model to assist students by providing regularly scheduled, out-of-class supplemental instruction sessions. Peer Lab targets high-risk courses rather than high-risk students, and is designed to give students extra instruction that will help them succeed in traditionally difficult courses.

The OSR course re-design program supports faculty interested in designing or re-designing their courses or programs. The primary goal consists of impacting student engagement, learning and retention (i.e. student success) by integrating student/faculty research and creative activities in the curriculum.

Finally, the OSR summer program was created to enable faculty members to collaborate with undergraduate students on research and scholarly projects during the summer. To support faculty mentors and students, the OSR Summer Research Program provides stipends to faculty and students, orientations to students and faculty, workshops, a social event, an OSR summer mini conference and publication of students' work in the OSR Journal of Student Research.

CUMULATIVE FINDINGS: *(Please discuss the overall results of your SSI-funded program(s), project(s), etc. as they pertain to your original outcomes over the course of the past three years. What improvements should be made?)*

Our goal in the Office of Student Research is to facilitate engagement of students in scholarly and creative activities related to their disciplines by providing resources that support both student scholars and faculty mentors. Our data demonstrates that we have increased the amount of participation in research based events offered by the OSR.

Our goal is also to increase the number of opportunities for students and faculty. This goal has been achieved when we look at the growth in the amount of scholarly activities developed by the office; i.e. workshops, faculty/ student grants, student grants, ASI grants, and the production of the OSR journal, etc.

Finally, the survey developed during Year 2 shows that student presenters generally felt that they were able to give well organized presentations and manage presentation time. Presenters also felt that they were able to articulate ideas and show initiative to research based activities.

CHALLENGES: *(Please list any significant challenges encountered over the course of the past three years that have affected your ability to fully implement your intended activities or to reach your articulated outcomes. How did you address these challenges?)*

Although, over the course of its short existence, the OSR has been able to leverage the amount of money received by SSI (as stated previously, the OSR has received a CSU Chancellor's Academic Student Success Program grant, CSU/ASSP), the office needs additional support. As stated previously, the OSR needs staff support and financial resources to achieve its mission consisting of "facilitate the engagement of students in scholarly activities related to their discipline by providing resources that support both the student scholars and faculty mentors".

At this stage, the office functions with a part time staff member and a part time faculty member. There is no doubt that the office necessitates a full time support staff. The office budget (currently \$10,000) is also quite limited. A budget of \$100,000 is more in line with what the office needs to be successful.

As far as faculty are concerned, results from the faculty survey, show that CSUSB faculty members have clearly delineated the hurdle of being involved with students' research; lack of time, lack of recognition, and lack of support from their colleges and the University.

The OSR has been able to raise some "seed money" (\$1,000 from each Dean) to offer faculty/student grants (\$1,500) and student grants (\$500). Additional resources are needed to support the growing demand of for these grants. As stated above, a budget of \$100,000 will allow us to hire the support staff and support faculty needed and students involved in scholarly activities.

LESSONS LEARNED: *(Please share any additional information you'd like regarding this area not covered above.)*

N/A

SUSTAINABILITY: *(Please explain how your department is planning for the continuation of your SSI-funded programs, projects, activities, etc.)*

Research and creative activities, one of the High Impact Practice (HIP) are known to increase rates of student retention and engagement. Building on these premises, the CSUSB Office of Student Research (OSR) was created in 2011. As shown in this report, since its inception, the OSR has made substantial progress, leveraging the SSI grant with a CSU Chancellor's Academic Student Success Program grant, implementing a symposium, designing workshops, creating a journal, and evaluating all of the services offered. Generally speaking, we are proud of what the OSR has done so far.

In order for the OSR to sustain the magnitude of its activities, we need the time to revisit, reinforce, rethink, and reinvest in our programs. A sustainable OSR needs stronger support from SSI to continue to develop, implement, access and correct its strategic plan.

As stated in the challenges section of this document, the OSR functions with only two part time members. It is important that the OSR receives more funding in order to maintain the amount and the quality of activities we currently provide. Furthermore, additional resources are needed to support the growing demand of for the faculty/student and student grants. As stated above, a budget of \$100,000 will allow us to hire the support staff and support faculty needed and students involved in scholarly activities.

