

# YSU 2020

## Cornerstone on Urban Research University Transition Executive Summary June 2014

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.

The efforts of the Distance Education Office to expand online course options for students and to increase enrollments continue to be an institutional priority. The RN-to-BSN program and the Financial Economics program are slated to go live in fall 2014, joining the seven existing fully-online programs. The Office of Distance Education's marketing efforts are showing promise for continued growth in enrollment. After four months of dedicated online marketing, the office has increased YSU's prospective student interests by 38% and applications by 31%. The addition of a student support specialist adding production to the outreach effort will allow the Office of Distance Education to better convert these inquiries and applications into enrollments for the fall 2014 semester and future semesters.

The Office of Distance Education also continues its support to make sure YSU offers the highest quality online programs and courses to its students. Currently, YSU has 95 courses under development. These courses will be peer-reviewed to ensure they meet the expectations of highest quality, pedagogically-focused online courses from faculty trained in the best practices of online instruction. As an added measure of continuous improvement, the office is working to implement the capability for YSU faculty to proctor and verify student enrollment through a partnership with ProctorCam, a company specializing in this area. Finally, the acquisition of the student workforce from the former ITC office and the formulation of the Instructional Design and Development Center (IDDC) has provided uninterrupted support for YSU faculty in the design, development, and delivery of online courses and programs.

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Quest: A Forum for Student Scholarship featured 389 students involved in 192 projects. To celebrate Quest's anniversary, a special event called the Best of Quest was held. During Best of Quest, the top students in each college presented their projects to a distinguished panel of judges and to the audience. Turning Technologies supplied the scoring equipment for the event.

In the first half of FY 2014, a total of \$5,186,670 in external grants was received. This amount exceeds the total of \$3.55 million received by YSU for the entire fiscal year of 2013. Success in attracting external grants continued during the third quarter of FY 2014. New notifications of awards exceeding \$1 million were received, including two from America Makes (formerly NAMII) and two from the Ohio Board of Regents. These grants will actually be recorded in the fourth quarter. Through the third quarter of FY14, the Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs (OGSP) estimates that its "unofficial" funded grants total about \$6.4 million dollars.

The OGSP is increasing its focus on compliance issues. A system was implemented to improve tracking of Progress (Technical) Reports that principal investigators are required to submit to the funding sponsor. In addition, online training modules for the responsible conduct of research (RCR) are being implemented using the CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative) program. The planning and full implementation is expected to occur by fall 2014.

International student enrollment has increased significantly. In spring 2014, 204 degree-seeking international students were enrolled, an 8.5% increase compared to spring 2013 and a 6.25% increase compared to fall 2013. International student applications reached an all-time high, with more than 70 new international students enrolling this semester for a total of more than 250 international students enrolled in graduate programs, undergraduate programs, and the English Language Institute.

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 Chunguk National University in Korea has recruited 2-3 Korean students for the past four semesters.

An updated international student recruitment publication has been produced. This publication will provide YSU's partners and prospective international students with an exciting look at the university, community, and course offerings. Beginning in spring 2014, the Provost's Scholarship is available to international students in order to attract more international students with strong academic profiles. In February, YSU's international admissions coordinator traveled to Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam to recruit international students. Thailand has an active group of YSU alumni, and an alumni reception was held in Bangkok with Interim President Ikram Khawaja in attendance.

Fifteen YSU students spent spring 2014 on a study abroad program. Students studied in Australia, China, England, Cyprus, India, Italy, Russia, Taiwan, Thailand, and Turkey. An additional approximately 40 YSU students will travel to other countries (the Bahamas, China, Costa Rica, and England) as part of YSU courses during the spring and summer terms.