Executive Summary

The College of AHSS and its departments continued to make steady progress in realizing our strategic goals during the past year. These goals include increasing our level of scholarly productivity, developing new interdisciplinary programs and collaborations, enhancing diversity in our composition and leadership, creating and revitalizing centers for research and community engagement, strengthening our relationships with alumni, expanding our development efforts, bolstering faculty involvement in sponsored research, and augmenting the academic distinction of our programs.

The notable accomplishments of AHSS faculty and students were reflected in the nine prestigious national and university awards they received. These awards included the National Ceramic Artist of the Year Award, a Fulbright Award, two Bush Foundation Fellowships, The Faculty Service Learning Award, the Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award, two Tapestry of Diverse Talents Awards, and the Departmental Advance FORWARD award.

College Goals, Priorities, and Accomplishments:

The goals listed below have served as the cornerstones for AHSS activity over the past four years and will continue to guide us in the year ahead. A green triangle precedes actions we have implemented to attain these goals. A yellow square indicates that we have already partially achieved the goal, and a red circle indicates that we have not yet started to implement actions pertaining to the goal but plan to do so in AY ’15-16.

Goal: Enhance Academic Distinction in the College

- Successfully granted tenure and/or promotion to twelve faculty members in the college.
- Continued to collaborate with unit heads in setting future priorities and improving the quality and distinction of their programs as well as the college.
- Supported the activities of the Red River Valley Writing Project (coordinated by Dr. Kelly Sassi of the English Department) as a site for the National Writing Project.
- Bolstered the advancement and publicity activities of the College, particularly in regard to promoting the scholarly and creative accomplishments of our faculty members.
- Supported AHSS faculty in their successful application for distinguished scholarly fellowships, such as a Fulbright Award and two Bush Fellowships.
- Integrated the Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture into the College culture and governance structure.
- Transition the Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture to a School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

Goal: Enhance and Support Equity and Diversity

Action steps:

- Implemented two key “diversity” hires as a part of the UNITE initiative. These hires included a Director of Indigenous Tribal Studies and an Assistant Professor of African Diaspora Studies.
- Provided support for the Institute for the Study of Cultural Diversity, which engages in research that promotes understanding and efficacious communication between diverse publics, particularly vulnerable groups, regarding risk and crisis situations.
- Hired Christina Weber to serve in a quarter-time position as Associate Dean of Faculty Development. Also supported the important college leadership provided by half-time Associate Dean, Betsy Birmingham.
- Worked closely with the Associate Deans and Director of Women’s and Gender Studies to support and sustain FORWARD initiatives on the college level.
▲ Sponsored the involvement of several women faculty in leadership development training, including Fast Track Leadership workshops. Also continued to encourage the male faculty in AHSS to serve as FORWARD allies.
▲ Supported the efforts of the college-based Diversity Committee in developing strategies to improve the recruitment and retention of diverse faculty and students.
▲ Continued developing and implementing family-friendly policies at the college level, as reflected in multiple spousal/partner accommodation hires.
▲ Develop college-based “diversity scholarships” to support students of color who are majoring in an AHSS program.

**Goal: Strengthen Networks of Support for Interdisciplinarity and Innovation**

*Action steps:*
▲ Implemented the Academic Infrastructure initiative entitled UNITE (Unifying hires committed to innovation, transformation, and engagement).
▲ Supported the continued development of an innovative Arts, Humanities, and Emerging Media (AHEM) initiative based on the collaboration of four AHSS departments.
▲ Established a more formal mentoring system in the College and its departments. This mentoring is being coordinated by the new Associate Dean for Faculty Development.
▲ Supported ongoing efforts to revitalize and extend the activities of the Center for Social Research.
▲ Endorsed and promoted the activities of the Upper Midwest Center for Public Policy, which is linked to the college and the Department of Criminal Justice and Political Science.
▲ Develop plans to increase fundraising and sponsored research to provide greater support for graduate research assistantships.
▲ Form a Center for Social Engagement and Entrepreneurship in coordination with the UNITE hires supported by Academic Infrastructure funding.

**Goal: Increase Development and Alumni Outreach Efforts**

*Action steps:*
▲ Hired a Development Director for the college, who engaged in significant outreach to alumni and potential donors.
▲ Finalized two major endowments for the performing and visual arts that totaled almost $6.1 million. One of these endowments also received a state matching grant of $1.25 million.
▲ Continued the development of a more focused communication and marketing plan for the college and met with University Relations staff to discuss the contents of that plan.
▲ Bolstered department-related alumni outreach efforts, particularly by increasing visits to and communications with key alumni.
▲ Establish a strategic development plan for the college and its units.
▲ Develop plans for an annual AHSS alumni event, which will involve inviting distinguished alumni to visit the College and campus.

**Goal: Increase Faculty Involvement in Sponsored Research**

*Action steps:*
▲ Hired a half-time Grants Coordinator and part-time graduate assistant to aid faculty and graduate students with seeking, preparing, and submitting grants.
▲ Used the Gunlogson Fund of the ND Institute for Regional Studies Press to provide monetary support for faculty projects with high potential for publication.
▲ Supported new initiatives proposed by the Director of the Center for Social Research (CSR) and expanded the Center’s staff to secure increased external funding.
▲ Sustained research partnerships and grant-related collaborations with the Public Health program.
▲ Developed an NSF-related grant partnership with the Mechanical Engineering department.
▲ Collaborated with Sisseton-Wahpeton College in the development of a NSF Tribal College-University Partnership to create a Behavioral Sciences degree program.
Goal: Improve the Quality and Scope of Instruction

Action steps:

▲ Recognized and rewarded teaching excellence by increasing the pedagogical awards granted by the College and by nominating deserving faculty for University awards.
▲ Offered Dean’s fellowships to faculty to support development activities geared toward improving instruction and/or pedagogical skills.
▲ Hired a Professor of Practice to assist faculty with instructional technologies and the development and assessment of online courses.
▲ Received support from the Provost’s Office to hire a full-time Honors Coordinator to extend and improve the current NDSU Honors Program.
▲ Promote continuous improvement in departmental assessment of instructional outcomes.
▲ Expand programs for tuition-paying Master’s students, such as the MME program.
▲ Increase undergraduate research experiences.

Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peer Reviewed Publications (published or accepted)</td>
<td>151 (+5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>National or International Invited Scholarly Presentations</td>
<td>180 (+64)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juried or Invited National or International Concerts/Performances/Exhibitions/Creative Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Concerts/Performances/Exhibitions/Creative Activities</td>
<td>220</td>
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<td>Research Grants and Contracts:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumulative Annual Expenditures*: 1,228,030</td>
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