4.1A Global Projects

The University of Arizona intends to become a world leader for confronting global challenges by increasing activities performed overseas, building relationships with international institutions, and creating incentives for faculty to participate in global programs. To this end, UArizona established the Office of Global Projects (OGP) in May 2020 with two staff located in Research Development Services (RDS) in Research, Innovation and Impact (RII).

OGP has already achieved or exceeded most its FY21 goals. As a new office with a mission foreign to many faculty and students, OGP spent much of the first year reaching out to colleges, departments, and faculty to inform them of the mission of OGP and to solicit their interest in partnerships. To date, OGP has reached out to 95 UArizona units representing 176 faculty and staff resulting in several important partnerships. OGP has also reached out to over 120 external organizations working in international research and development which has resulted in several successful partnerships. OGP has submitted six applications totaling $32,093,766 and prior to the end of the fiscal year, we intend to submit another three or four applications totaling $25M.

OGP has also been building its presence directly with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Department of State (DOS) through strategic meetings with key leaders. For example, OGP has reached out to key leaders in the USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security to position itself as a thought leader and partner of choice in resilience research as well as Agency leadership responsible for higher education partnerships and for engagement with Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) to leverage its status as an HSI.
4.2C4 Arizona Global Center

The Global Center centralizes international activities and services on campus, delivers unparalleled support for international students, and provides a hub for global engagement. The Global Center now includes the following offices: International Student Services, International Faculty & Scholars, International Admissions, Study Abroad, Passport Services, Global Travel, a THINK TANK advising space, and an OSCR Computer Lab. After Phase 2 of renovations the Global Center will also include international food options as part of a global food court, an international market, a collaborative workspace, and renovated common areas including the main lobby and courtyard.

The Global Center will eventually be the heart of an International Village—a vibrant living and learning community that will include internationally focused dorms, a wide variety of international dining options, indoor and outdoor spaces for events and activities, conference facilities, and guest housing serving the global needs of the University. The International Village will draw students, faculty, staff and the Tucson community to engage in transformative global experiences with their international counterparts and will be the focal point for global activities on campus.

In FY21 we received Strategic Initiative Funding to begin renovations on the collaborative workspace. The renovation work is complete, and furniture is being ordered. We have requested the remaining funds from our initial $8.5M budget commitment to continue construction and renovation at the Global Center. We look forward to completing the renovations of the Global Center and providing a vibrant hub for global activities on our campus.
Broadly, the initiative remains focused on bringing high quality one-of-a-kind interprofessional online and global courses and programs to students and communities that need them. Now more than ever students are seeking innovative programs that match the demands of a changing world. Interest in and demand for health sciences programs in particular have increased and the UAHS Global and Online initiative has risen to meet these demands through the continued development of courses for online and global modalities. Furthermore, the initiative has proven its capacity to bring together stakeholders from across disciplines, Colleges and university centers to contribute to a unique, UAHS collaborative graduate degree program, “Innovations in Aging.” The commitment to the development of this program has persisted despite significant reductions in funding and changes in the strategic plan.

In addition to the interdisciplinary course and program development, the initiative and UAHS Colleges have also worked to ensure that global partnerships remain on track amidst this dynamic time. This includes the launching of a successful microcampus partnership between the College of Medicine - Tucson and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham University in India in Fall 2020. Forthcoming partnerships between College of Nursing, College of Pharmacy and others are anticipated in 2021 to further contribute to the global partnership goals outlined in the long-term objectives of the UAHS Global and Online initiative.

Like many initiatives, the UAHS Global and Online initiative has adapted to significant budget reductions, as well as other changes (e.g., inability to travel) that impact the scope and implementation of the strategic plan. Fortunately, the initiative has been able to work ahead of schedule on microcampus and collaborative UAHS program development despite significant reductions and changes. With the hiring of critical personnel to our newly established centralized UAHS Global and Online office, as well as critical hiring of personnel within the Colleges, the initiative has made substantive progress in promoting global educational opportunities in all Health Sciences colleges. This initiative is on track to hit the large goals and KPIs for program development and delivery. With additional funding, enrollment and course development is perfectly poised to expand to implement other aspects of the UAHS Initiative including the partnership with Minerva University and global research opportunities.