Project Pave the Way — FY 2021

How does this project support the Student Affairs and Enrollment Management mission?

Student Affairs supports the UA mission and values by delivering exemplary programs, services, resources and facilities that have a measurable and positive impact on the development and retention of students and contribute to the well-being and advancement of our community. Project Pave the Way seeks to follow the Student Affairs model by impacting the development of undergraduate and graduate students by engaging them in the campus and Tucson community in work that ultimately increases college access for low-income, minority, and first-generation families. Student engagement that demonstrates partnerships across campus and anchors students into their surrounding community should culminate in the type of student success that we currently aspire toward as an institution.

What is the reason for creating/maintaining this project?

Early Academic Outreach (EAO) is seeking to maintain Project the Pave the Way over the next few years. EAO partners with school districts and on- and off-campus partners to provide first-generation families with an exposure and understanding of the planning and preparation required for a university education. The two graduate positions and 16 undergraduate positions will allow students to take leadership roles in the college access initiatives. The graduate assistants will be engaged in 640 hours of outreach per graduate student (for a total of 1,280 hours) and the undergraduates will be engaged in an average of 108 hours of outreach per student (for a total of 1735 hours). As a secondary effect, support from the Student Services Fee will Pave the Way for potential future Wildcats in the following manner:

Graduate Assistant for College Knowledge Initiatives

Requested Support = $29,750. Support would allow for hiring of one .50 FTE graduate student to coordinate, plan, recruit, execute and assess five College Knowledge conferences each semester that seeks to engage those that are critical to students’ college preparation process – counselors and parents.

Graduate Assistant for Parent Outreach Initiatives

Requested Support = $29,750. Support would allow for hiring of one .50 FTE graduate student to coordinate, plan, recruit, execute and assess two comprehensive series of workshops for parents and students in which families create a college plan for each of their K-12 students.

College Academy for Parents Camp Leaders (11) and Early Outreach Ambassadors (5)

Requested Support = $20,820. Support would allow hiring of sixteen undergraduate students who would have the opportunity to facilitate outreach activities for students in the K-12 system. Undergraduates gain workshop facilitation skills, public speaking, and social justice training as they work with youth to support and further their college aspirations.

Operational Dollars

Requested Support = $10,000. Approximately 90% of requested funds have direct impact on the engagement of undergraduate and graduate students, both on campus and in the community.
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Operational dollars (approximately 10% of the requested funds) will allow graduate students a relatively small budget to make informed (based on college access literature when possible) enhancements to the college access initiatives that they oversee.

How many students will be directly impacted?

College Knowledge for Parents – 25 undergraduate students will be engaged in the one-day conference.

College Academy for Parents – 11 students engaged in 935 total hours of engagement.

Early Outreach Ambassadors – 5 students engaged in 800 total hours of engagement.

Two graduate students will be engaged in 1,280 total hours of college access work.

*EAO is proud of our history of engaging a diverse set of undergraduate and graduate students from low-income, underrepresented and first-generation backgrounds.*

How will the success of this initiative be assessed?

EAO will use the assessment instruments at our disposal and made available through partnership with the Student Affairs Assessment office to assess the impact of the SSF funding. Our office’s focus is to develop assessment methods and tools that are sustainable and help us to share the impact of our work with the many partners that we engage in our outreach. We will continue to seek measures that gauge our work within and across programs, utilizing both qualitative and quantitative methods where appropriate. Graduate students will also be engaged in assessment and we will call upon existing partnerships with the faculty of the Center for the Study of Higher Education. Of note, the University of Denver has recently asked to engage Early Academic Outreach via site visits as our office has been recommended as a model area to learn from as Denver works to develop their own college access center. We believe that our undergraduate and graduate students contribute greatly to our success and we are always grateful to Student Services Fee for helping us to make these opportunities available to our students.

How are you ensuring the longevity of this program?

EAO has a history of establishing on- and off-campus partnerships, seeking funding sources (such as the Student Services Fee and Strategic Planning dollars), and utilizing that funding to sustain initiatives that were originally grant-funded. Partnerships and multiple funding sources will be evident in the Other Projected Sources of Funding in the budget. Student Services Fee would provide 60% of the funding, with office, campus, district and donor contributions making up the remaining 40% of the costs associated with the successful implementation of these college access initiatives. In December, EAO worked with a local Giving Party (involving over 100 contributors) & a donor family who in total gave a one-time gift of $40,000 to EAO’s operations. While those funds can not be used toward student wages, we hope to continue to work with Student Services Fees to engage graduate and undergraduate students in meaningful on-campus work that situates students in giving back to the local community.

Thank you for your consideration of this year’s proposal and for your support over the years. It continues to make a difference, both for our students and the community!