

School of Science • The College of New Jersey
 Strategic Map, 2012-2015
Building Academically Excellent Programs That Will Garner National Recognition

2014–2015 OUTCOMES

Strategic Priority	Strategic Objective	Projects for 2014-2015	Major Outcomes
All Priorities and Objectives		Create a new School of Science Advisory group, comprised of national-level experts on cross-cutting topics.	Formation of group postponed.
		Create a new SoS departmental-level grant program, focused on departmental transformation in the pursuit of excellence.	Creation of program postponed.
		Conduct interim review and update of School of Science Strategic Map.	Based on consultative and iterative dialogue and feedback from the SoS community, the SoS Strategic Map was updated for the 2015-2018 time frame.

Building a Teaching and Research Supportive Infrastructure	Acquisition and Maintenance of Instrumentation and Computing	Provide Equipment Leasing Fund (ELF) funding for strategic laboratory and computing equipment/instrumentation replacement and acquisition plans.	Funds made available; Purchases ongoing.
	SoS-focused Information and Technology Support	Advocate for modification/flexibility in IT policies, such that these take into account the special needs of scientific computing.	Had positive conversations with Interim CIO and other IT staff members; Short-term and longer-term plans to support SoS needs, particularly the High Performance Scientific Computing Cluster were developed; Project ongoing.
	Facilities Planning to Support Current and Envisioned Programs	Engage in the planning process for the new STEM Building/STEM Complex and renovation of SoS facilities.	Phase 1 – Held final design conversations with architects on the project; Significant input included in designed spaces; Groundbreaking occurred. Phase 2 – Architects were approved and initial timeline developed.

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Enhancing Scholarship Broadly Across the SoS	Internal Direct Support of Faculty Research	Support mini-grant program for faculty research.	8 proposals were received and 7 were funded.
		Create a new SoS external scholarly mentor program.	With input from the SoS community, an RFP was developed and distributed, with two deadlines in the inaugural year. Although some faculty members expressed interest, no proposals were submitted.
		Support scholarly writing groups.	2 proposals were received and 2 were funded.
	Professional Travel Support for Faculty and Students	Support travel to scholarly conferences at a high level.	Approximately 112 faculty trips and 92 student trips were supported by the School of Science; Approximately 125 scholarly presentations were delivered.
	Faculty Support and Development of Grant Writing	Enhance the competitiveness of external grant proposals via enhancement of on-campus support and trip to visit funding agencies in Washington, DC.	Approximately 39 proposals/pre-proposals were submitted, and over \$2.4 million in award funding was secured; 9 faculty and staff members attended the CUR Dialogues meeting on grant opportunities.

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Deepening Student Engagement	Small Classes, Manage Scheduling, Strategic Use of Adjuncts	Strategically manage course schedules and average class sizes to ensure deep student engagement.	Course schedules were well-planned/managed; Average class sizes were maintained at levels to support deep student engagement.
	Increased Opportunities for Student Research, Internships, Capstones and Academic Clubs	Promote, encourage, and support student applicants for Barry Goldwater Scholarships, and other national- and international-level student fellowship programs.	Had a substantial number of student applicants and student nominees for Barry Goldwater Scholarships; Awardees included 1 Goldwater and 2 Goldwater honorable-mentions.
		Promote and support curricular and program development, focused on integration of engaged learning pedagogies, research, and interdisciplinary connections.	Finalized approval for new interdisciplinary minor in "Computational and Mathematical Biology"; Biology Department engaged in significant revision of its curriculum, including interdisciplinary courses from Math; Student advisory board held a successful "Week of Science".
	Enhanced Opportunities for Developmental Advising and Mentoring	Create a 'School of Science Gateway to Research-based Careers' program for students traditionally underrepresented in SoS majors (based on our successful NSF-funded program in Biology).	New program created; Recruitment of new first-year cohort of 10 students for Fall 2015, including students from all five departments.
		Expand and support successful advising strategies from NSF-funded PERSIST program.	Held several discussions at Council of Chairs meetings; Submitted two grant proposals: NSF-IUSE (funded) and NIH-MARC (pending); Submitted six presentation proposals for AAC&U STEM conference; Revised and taught new science course for the TCNJ EOF summer program for the second time.
		Implement new SoS Academic Advising Policy.	Held several conversations with student advisory board and faculty advisors; Awareness and knowledge about the policy was expanded.

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Building a Robust Intellectual Community	Create More Time and Opportunities for Pedagogy, Scholarship and Professional Development for Faculty and Staff	Review and modify departmental approaches, conventions, and cultures to optimize faculty time for their primary role as teacher-scholars (e.g., organizational/committee structures and work, meeting agendas, e-mail communications, service responsibilities).	Held several discussions at Council of Chairs and departmental meetings; Examples of revised approaches include 'flipped' meeting agendas and new committee structures with balanced distribution of faculty members.
		Create a new SoS external scholarly mentor program.	With input from the SoS community, an RFP was developed and distributed, with two deadlines in the inaugural year. Although some faculty members expressed interest, no proposals were submitted.
		Support travel to professional development-type conferences/workshops related to pedagogy, teaching and learning, high-impact practices, scholarly practice, outcomes assessment, academic advising, time management, etc.	Supported faculty and staff travel to several key meetings, such as: AAC&U meeting on undergraduate STEM education, CUR Dialogues, oSTEM meeting, Medical School/Allied Health advising meeting.
	Recruitment and Support of Diverse and Intellectually Courageous People	Prepare advertisements, evaluation criteria, and interview schedules for faculty and staff positions that are well-aligned with the teacher-scholar model in a primarily undergraduate, residential institution and our mission.	Hired three tenure-line faculty members, several visiting faculty members (including two Teacher-Scholar Fellows), and two staff members; Held productive meetings with the Offices of Human Resources and Admissions.
		Improve SoS and departmental websites.	School and all departmental websites updated and improved; Held conversations with a professional writer for new web site for 2015-16.
		Hold a 'Women in Science' event, including TCNJ attendees as well as high school students, teachers, and guidance counselors.	Significantly expanded event featured alumni, current students, and high school students, science teachers and guidance counselors.
		Identify and submit grant proposals focused on supporting students traditionally underrepresented in the SoS; and implement funded grants.	NSF-IUSE grant funded; Submitted NIH-MARC (pending); Supported students and faculty to attend national "Out in STEM" (oSTEM) conference.
	Increased Opportunities to Share Teaching and Scholarship within SoS and Campus Communities	Enhance SoS and departmental colloquium/seminar series.	Implemented a new colloquium calendar to better coordinate colloquia among the SoS and all departments; Held 43 colloquia, including disciplinary and interdisciplinary presentations, and a range of external and SoS faculty speakers; Presentations well-attended.
		Host a speaker and/or panel session on new pedagogical approaches in undergraduate STEM education (e.g., the flipped classroom, metacognition).	Speaker/panel postponed.