

Center for Rural Studies

Goal 1: Enrich the Student Academic Experience

Goal Description:

The Center for Rural Studies will con nue to enrich the student academic experience in manners that present the student with the applied opportuni es as they relate to rural communi es and rural development.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

1A. Promote Undergraduate Students’ Understanding of Rural Issues

Performance Objective Description:

The Center will con nue to promote undergraduate students’ understanding of issues facing rural Texas through the con nua on of the Texas Rural Internship Program (TRIP).

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

1A-1. Internship Enrollment

KPI Description:

The Center will fulfill 80% of all internship request made by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Results Description:

The Center has fulfilled 100% of all TRIP internship requests – 3 in Spring 2017, 4 in Summer 2017.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

1A-1

Action Description:

The data show the desired result was achieved. The Director of Center for Rural Studies resigned at the end of the Spring 2017 semester. Due to the absence of the Director, further actions regarding the Center is on hold.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

1A-2. Internship Evaluation

KPI Description:

All TRIP Interns will receive an “Average” or higher score on 80% of the evaluated items (12/15 questions) listed on the “Evaluation of Intern” form. Site supervisors (See the attached rubric) will complete this evaluation.

Attached Files

 [Student Evaluation of Internship](#)

Results Description:

In progress. Spring supervisors recently received evaluation form for Spring 2017. Summer evaluations will occur in August, 2017

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

1A-2

Action Description:

The Director of Center for Rural Studies resigned at the end of the Spring 2017 semester. Due to the absence of the Director, no further progress has been made.

Goal 2: Engage University Faculty and the SHSU Community

Goal Description:

The Center for Rural Studies will continue to engage university faculty and the Sam Houston State University community through opportunities for collaboration, information, and collective learning.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

2A. Facilitate Intellectual Environment

Performance Objective Description:

The Center will facilitate the intellectual environment of the SHSU faculty community.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

2A-1. Intellectual Conversation

KPI Description:

Center staff will present at least one CHSS faculty colloquium focused on Center-related activities and sponsor at least one college-level invited guest lecture by a visiting scholar or practitioner in the 2016-2017 academic year.

Results Description:

- Dr. Shannon Lane and three undergraduate students presented preliminary results on TRS data at SHSU colloquium on April 5, 2017.
- Joint poster presentation was given following colloquium by visiting scholars from Wilkes University, April 5, 2017.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

2A-1

Action Description:

The data show the desired result was achieved. The Director of Center for Rural Studies resigned at the end of the Spring 2017 semester. Due to the absence of the Director, further actions regarding the Center is on hold.

Goal 3: Provide Public Outreach and Education

Goal Description:

The Center for Rural Studies will continue to provide public outreach and education.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

3A. Public Awareness

Performance Objective Description:

The Center will improve public awareness of the Center.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

3A-1. Marketing Materials

KPI Description:

The Center will send complete packets of marketing materials to targeted organizations (Target, 30 Organizations).

Results Description:

On hold. Marketing to be addressed following discussions about the Center’s future.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

3A-1

Action Description:

The Director of Center for Rural Studies resigned at the end of the Spring 2017 semester. Due to the absence of the Director, no further progress has been made.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

3A-2. Information Booth

KPI Description:

The Center will host at least one information booth at a statewide meeting of targeted organization.

Results Description:

Scheduled for Texas Rural Challenge, June 29-30, 2017, Waco, TX.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

3A-2

Action Description:

The Director of Center for Rural Studies resigned at the end of the Spring 2017 semester. Due to the absence of the Director, no further progress has been made.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

3B. Respond to Public Inquiries

Performance Objective Description:

The Center will continue to respond to public (Non – SHSU generated) inquiries for requests of information, center services, referrals, and collaboration.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

3B-1. Respond to Public Inquiries

KPI Description:

The Center will respond to no less than 90% of logged inquiries.

Results Description:

Since records have been kept on Center requests beginning this past Fall, the Center has responded to 100% of 21 requests for information, connection to resources, or to participate in an event/outreach activity. These include requests to:

- County Progress Magazine, to publish our story about the Grimes County Planning

- Representative Kevin Brady’s office (via Michael Etheridge), to solicit planning and development advice in Grapeland, TX
- National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), to be a featured presenter on strategies for enhancing entrepreneurial community development
- Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) for information on rural healthcare
- Joe Harper, Texas State Small Business Development Center (TX-SBDC), for information on entrepreneurial ecosystems
- Farm & Ranch Freedom Alliance, to create a policy brief on information regarding the impacts of small-scale agriculture on the macroeconomy
- Houston County, to assist in examining the history of African-American education in the county, and to help identify historical records through the library system
- Dr. Foy Mills (x2) in the Department of Agriculture, to give guest lectures about the Center and rural opportunities more broadly to his agricultural policy students
- SHSU Dean of Students (x4), inquiring about students qualified for awards, and how to involve Sociology students
- SHSU Job Fair (x2), to represent the Texas Rural Internship Program
- SHSU Agricultural Communications program, to coordinate ongoing work for Courtney Crowley with Grimes County
- Grimes County, to involve the Department of Graphic Design (Professor César Rivera and his students) in spearheading a new branding campaign for the county.
- Houston Contractors Association, to research demographic information impacting growth in the Greater Houston metropolitan area
- Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, to give a talk on money management and financial literacy for college students
- Judge Matthew Wright (Rosebud, TX), to begin to investigate grant opportunities to do community engagement work in that community
- Texans Against High-Speed Rail, to host an opposition talk on High Speed Rail in rural Texas (declined)

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

3B-1

Action Description:

The data show the desired result was achieved. The Director of Center for Rural Studies resigned at the end of the Spring 2017 semester. Due to the absence of the Director, further actions regarding the Center is on hold.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

3C. Dissemination of TRS results

Performance Objective Description:

The Center will disseminate the results of the 2016 Texas Rural Survey (TRS).

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

3C-1. General Report

KPI Description:

The Center will release at least three subject-area general reports of the TRS data via the center webpage.

Results Description:

Cleaned TRS dataset to be made available to Department/College on July 15, 2017. Reports to follow in late Summer, 2017

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

3C-1

Action Description:

The Director of Center for Rural Studies resigned at the end of the Spring 2017 semester. Due to the absence of the Director, no further progress has been made.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

3C-2. Presentation in Austin

KPI Description:

The Center will host one public-oriented event in Austin presenting the general findings of the Texas Rural Survey.

Results Description:

In progress. Shannon Lane/Gene Theodori currently coordinating activity with legislative liaison to schedule a presentation

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

3C-2

Action Description:

The Director of Center for Rural Studies resigned at the end of the Spring 2017 semester. Due to the absence of the Director, no further progress has been made.

Goal 4: Enhancing Sustainability Goal Description:

The Center will enhance financial sustainability.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

4A. Financial Sustainability

Performance Objective Description:

The Center will enhance the financial sustainability through the development of grant proposals.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

4A-1. Grant Proposal

KPI Description:

The Center will submit at least one internal grant proposal and three external grant proposals in 2016-2017.

Results Description:

Two grant proposals were submitted : 1) \$5,000 assessment stipend in September (internal; declined), Safari Club on 10/31 (external; declined, R&R).

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

4A-1

Action Description:

The data show the desired result was not achieved. The Director of Center for Rural Studies resigned at the end of the Spring 2017 semester. Due to the absence of the Director, further actions regarding the Center is on hold.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

4B. Enhance the Center Structure

Performance Objective Description:

The Center will enhance the center structure for goal accountability and the strategic visioning of the Center.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

4B-1. Advisory Board

KPI Description:

The Center will convene an advisory board bi-monthly beginning February of 2017. The advisory board will comprise of four faculty members external to the Department of Sociology, one administrative from CHSS, and unlimited members of the department of Sociology.

Results Description:

Partial. Shannon Lane and Gene Theodori have been meeting monthly since February in an advisory capacity. Convening a formal board on hold until Fortunato transition is worked out and the future of the Center is more solid. Also, internal grant for convening advisory board did not come to fruition.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

4B-1

Action Description:

The Director of Center for Rural Studies resigned at the end of the Spring 2017 semester. Due to the absence of the Director, no further progress has been made.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

4B-2. Affiliated Faculty Program

KPI Description:

Through the updated process of the Affiliated Faculty Program, the Center will recruit at least eight faculty affiliates not directly employed by the Center.

Results Description:

Pushed to September 2017, pending continuation of Center.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

4B-2

Action Description:

The Director of Center for Rural Studies resigned at the end of the Spring 2017 semester. Due to the absence of the Director, no further progress has been made.

Goal 5: Academic Excellence

Goal Description:

The Center will ensure academic excellence.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

5A. Academic Excellence

Performance Objective Description:

The Center will promote academic excellence by increasing academic output.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

5A-1. Manuscript related to TRS

KPI Description:

The Center’s staff will have authored and submi ed at least one Texas Rural Survey -related manuscript.

Results Description:

To be completed after July 15, 2017 clean data submission.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

5A-1

Action Description:

The Director of Center for Rural Studies resigned at the end of the Spring 2017 semester. Due to the absence of the Director, no further progress has been made.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

New Plan for Continuous Improvement was not creased in 2015-2016 cyle.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

The Director of Center for Rural Studies resigned at the end of the Spring 2017 semester. Due to the absence of the Director, the assessment for the Center for Rural Studies has not been completed.

Plan for Continuous Improvement

Closing Summary:

With the departure of the Director of the Center for Rural Studies, the Department Chair, working with the Dean’s office, will reevaluate the mission and goals of the Center and develop a strategic plan for the Center in the next few years.