

Project Name: Agriculture and Applied Economics – Natural Resources

MIU Round: Round 2

Sponsor(s): College of Agricultural & Life Sciences

Coordinator(s): Ken Shapiro

Report Date: Year 1, July 2011

Project Specific Goal and Measures

Project Impact Measure(s) Increase the level and quality of service to students majoring in Agriculture and Applied Economics (AAE) and AAE courses by:

- Increasing access to resource and environmental economics courses by increasing the available seats and frequency of offering in AAE 343 Environmental Economics.
- Increase the number of internship opportunities for AAE students and funding available for internship students.
- Improve undergraduate advising by offering more opportunities for students to meet with advisors and more timely advice than the current faculty advising model.
- Plan and implement a Certificate in Agribusiness Management.

Project Impact Data Source(s) Departmental reports and APA data on course offerings and staffing levels.

Baseline Measure(s) 2009-10, prior to any MIU funding.

General MIU Goals and Measures (applicable to project)

A Increased access in bottleneck areas Covered in project goals (AAE 343).

C Increased capacity for high-impact practices Covered in project goals (increase internship opportunities).

D Increased student learning and teaching excellence Funding for TA support in large lecture courses will allow AAE to explore alternative content delivery such as hybrid course models involving distance learning technology, discussion sections and plenary sessions for current events and guest lectures. TA support will also allow a discussion section to be added to AAE 350, a course with controversial and emotional topics that would benefit from more personal reflection and discussion time. AAE is moving towards course exams that require demonstration of understanding that is beyond replication of lecture and reading material.

Agriculture and Applied Economics – Natural Resources, Page 2

E	More tenured, tenure-track faculty teaching undergraduate courses	Both new faculty hires will teach undergraduate courses.
F	Decreased achievement gaps	AAE is in the process of learning about achievement gaps that exist in departmental courses.
G	Attention to diversity in new hires	Department Chair attended WISELI recruiting workshops and briefed members of the search committee and shared WISELI materials. Because the first recruit was for an advanced assistant or associate position, all departmental faculty were asked to provide names of likely candidates and other contacts in the field in an effort to increase the number of minority and female candidates. All names that were provided received a personal invitation to apply. The position was also advertised in <i>Job Openings for Economists</i> (from the American Economics Association), <i>The Exchange</i> (from the American Agricultural Economics Association), the <i>Chronicle of Higher Education</i> , and ResEcon (listserve for resource and environmental economist).

Progress Reports

- Year 1
- Conducted successful search for a new faculty member (will begin in January 2012).
 - Conducted successful search for a 50% undergraduate Student Services Coordinator.
 - Offered AAE 343 Environmental Economics in both fall and spring 2010-11 (pre-MIU, AAE 343 was only offered in the spring term). Enrollments in AAE 343 more than doubled between 2009-10 and 2010-11 (from 104 to 217).
 - Cultivated internship opportunities and funding for AAE majors. In summer 2011, four AAE students are participating in internships.
-