

B. QEP White Paper: Reaffirmation 2020

Title: All Hands On Deck: Collaboration & Engagement to Improve Students' Academic Success

Topic : Career Readiness (Career Assessment Inventory, Information Literacy, Academic Advising)

Introduction: Alabama State University's mission includes the following statement "...build upon quality scholarship and academic rigor to graduate a diverse corps of lifelong learners who are fully equipped to lead and succeed as citizens of the global workforce." (ASU mission)

The graduation of lifelong learners requires all hands on deck. This proposal outlines the need for three ASU units to work together to "equip" ASU students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to succeed as citizens of the global workforce. These units -- Academic Advising, Career Services, and the University Library -- are three stakeholders, who, by coordinating their individual yet connected efforts, will greatly impact students' academic success and as a result, help ASU reach a mission critical goal.

Learning Outcomes:

The collaboration will focus on the following student learning outcomes:

1. Students will be responsive to the challenges and opportunities for success in college
2. Students will be able to make informed decision on careers and course selections
3. Students will have an extensive knowledge of the support programs and centers at ASU

Strategies:

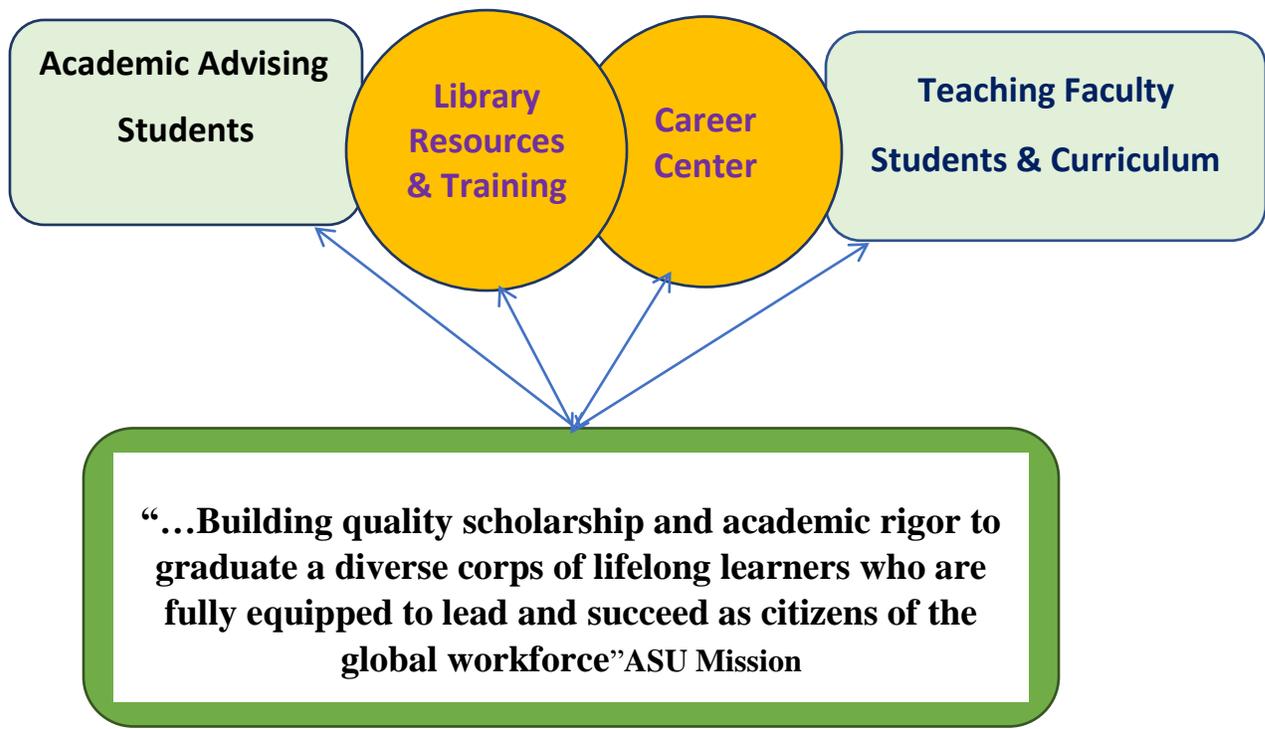
To prepare students for successful careers in the global workforce, ASU must infuse career readiness throughout students' experiences as students. Career readiness cannot be relegated to the one unit on campus; rather, it must be present in courses, during advising, as part of research activities, etc. The career focus for students should be early in their time at ASU. The following are three core strategies to promote integration and collaboration to support students' career readiness and information literacy:

- 1. Library 101 Course:** A mandatory one credit hour hybrid course, taught by librarians that all freshmen must take. Students are constantly bombarded with information, but they often have not acquired the skills and abilities they need to assess the validity of information sources, to know where to find reliable information, and to be able to translate information they access into meaningful and usable information. The curriculum of the course will center on students' acquisition of core information literacy and research skills and learning the

basics and mechanics of what it means to do research and write a paper in college.

Information literacy and research abilities cannot be taught effectively as a set of distinctive skills without reference to content and context. The library will partner with the Career Center for this course, so students can complete a career assessment and then explore dimensions of this career through the Library 101 assignments. The students will research educational requirements, job skills, and job trends for their chosen careers. Based on the information learned, they will then develop career plans to follow throughout their time at ASU and beyond.

2. **Career-Focused Information Literacy:** One of the library's key services is to partner with faculty to develop research-based assignments and information literacy instruction for students. By collaborating with the Career Center, the library can re-inforce career exploration, investigation, and focus through the information literacy classes and faculty-partnered assignment development projects.
3. **Career-Informed Advising:** The Advising Center can also benefit from collaborating with the Career Center and the Library in order to strengthen advisors understanding of key career resources that can be used to help motivate and guide students as part of the advising process.



Evaluations & Assessments

Alabama State University has used the Standardized Assessment (SAILS) for information literacy during 2010 to 2015. The SAILS project is a knowledge test with multiple-choice questions targeting a variety of information literacy skills. The test items are based on the ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education and Objectives for Information Literacy Instruction. SAILS testing model will be adopted to target Lib101 course objectives, and create video tutorials to be embedded in career research and academic advising.

This collaborative and targeted approach will inch Alabama State University closer to one of its core goal: produce informed and global graduate students.

Sources:

American Library Association, January 18, 2018. http://www.ala.org/search-results?as_q=cite%20acrl (Accessed June 11, 2018) Document ID: 019c5924-9dc0-4eaa-929a-9aeff57bd454