ADDITIONAL CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES SUBCOMMITTEE
2016 Strategic Planning Effort

Recommendation: Create an additional Strategic Priority to complement and unify those previously identified by the Steering Committee.

Suggested Wording: Iowa State University will be recognized as an engaged Community committed to working collaboratively to improve the human condition.

Rationale: Community has been integral to Iowa State University as a land grant institution since its founding. Making Community a standalone priority demonstrates a commitment to develop an institutional culture that stitches together the other strategic priorities into a shared, mutually supportive fabric. Retention and graduation rates, faculty and staff retention and promotion, workplace environment satisfaction, work-life balance, Cyclone pride, interpersonal relationships, and engagement and commitment are all directly affected by the degree to which individuals develop a sense of ‘ownership’ in the ISU community. Being a Cyclone transforms individuals into engaged, global citizens prepared to change the world.

Suggested Goals:

- Prioritize professional and personal development for all community members as integral to the institutional mission. Provide a rich living and learning experience for students along with an engaging and supportive lifelong learning environment for faculty, staff, alumni, and external stakeholders. (Campus Environment; Economic Development and Service)

- Design and plan programs, services, facilities and landscapes to enhance collaboration, interaction, and relationship building. Prioritize the building of research space specifically designed for interdisciplinary research in STEM, the humanities, and the social and behavioral sciences. (Infrastructure Enablers; Research Profile)

- Develop and implement policies and processes that put people first. Maximize administrative efficiencies, reward proactive initiatives and ethical behavior, encourage interdisciplinary work, enhance the development of partnerships with organizations external to the university, and supports healthy work-life balance and quality of life. (Infrastructure Enablers; Research Profile; Economic Development and Service; Campus Environment)

The metaphor of a unifying fabric supports the lifelong development of community members as they move through different life phases. These threads tie them to ISU whether at the University or beyond.