

# Investment Fund for the Future (IF2) – Entry #103

## A. PROPOSAL SUMMARY

**Title: Exploring Alternate Majors in Health and Medicine**

**Project Lead Name:** Thomas Chew  
EMSA and AA

**Project Lead email address:** tchew@brockport.edu

**Amount Requested: 2340**

**This proposal is cross-unit; It will be managed by more than one school and/or division.**

**This proposal includes cost sharing.**

**Name of Sponsor 1:** Katy Wilson  
Enrollment Management and Student Affairs

**Name of Sponsor 2:** Mark Kittleson  
Health & Human Performance

**Name of Sponsor 3:**

### A-1. Description of the Initiative

Health Science majors and careers bring hundreds of students to the College at Brockport. Many of these majors are highly selective. The nursing program alone has over 200 nursing intent students this semester, fully knowing they will only be able to offer spots to around 75.

Many students come to the college with a lack of understanding of their options. We are currently ill equipped to collaborate in guiding these students to a new major when they realize they will not make it in the major they originally intended. The Living Learning Communities, Career Services, Academic Advisement, the pre-health program and the majors themselves do their best to steer these students to new career aspirations and majors, but are not aware of resources or what others are doing.

This initiative would provide cross divisional training and programming support to these areas with the goal of offering a unified message and multiple direct levels of support to the students who find themselves in this situation.

### A-2. Impact Statement: What change will this project deliver in the short term? What are the expected longer term impacts?

The most direct immediate impact will be on the faculty and staff. Having a higher level of training, collaboration and understanding of resources will take the weight off of one and spread it amongst many. As we continue to take on projects for the sake of student success, this level of collaboration will help combat fatigue and unnecessary stress felt by those trying to help many.

In the long term, many of these students end up leaving the college to find an institution where they can study the major they believe they want. The three term retention rate for most of the STEM majors

hovers in the mid-70% range, where the college average after three terms is around 82%. By actively pairing these students with a higher level of advisement and programming, we hope to retain them at a greater rate.

## B. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

### B-1. To be a Great College at which to Learn

Developing both students and staff on having a better understanding of career trajectories, advising best practices and cross divisional collaboration makes us each a little better in the long run. We want to offer our students the best service and encourage them to have the best experience. Students cannot reach their full potential at Brockport if they are constantly struggling or do not complete their degree at Brockport.

Supporting students through their personal journey in discovering their major and potential future career is paramount in providing a transformative experience. Learning through struggles is an essential aspect of a well-rounded education. Providing supportive programming around these known struggles is one way we can show students that we are invested in them and help them through their search for a transformative experience.

### B-2. To be a College engaged with its Community

We see this as a clear instance of making connections across disciplines. Fostering a partnership and understanding that we are all here to help our students succeed.

### B-3. To be a Sustainable Institution for the 21st Century

### B-4. To be a Great College at which to Work

We will offer informative and collaborative programming for both our students and for the appropriate faculty and staff. Students are expected to be engaged in their educational journey as well as becoming self-advocates. This makes the job of our faculty and staff simultaneously easier and more difficult. This active engagement provides an excellent opportunity to develop a breadth of professional knowledge, but also adds work to already full plates. This initiative would support both sides of the table.

## C. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND BUDGET

C-1. Identify the specific activities to be funded from the Investment Fund, estimated time-line for implementation, and for activities anticipated to be ongoing, plans for continued funding.

**Item 1:** National Memberships

**Item 1 Amount:** 640

**Item 2:** National Conference

**Item 2 Amount:** 1200

**Item 3:** Marketing Material

**Item 3 Amount:** 150

**Item 4:** Workshops/Training

**Item 4 Amount:** 350

**Item 5:**

**Item 5 Amount:**

**Item 6:**

**Item 6 Amount:**

**Item 7:**

**Item 7 Amount:**

**Item 8:**

**Item 8 Amount:**

**Item 9:**

**Item 9 Amount:**

**Item 10:**

**Item 10 Amount:**

**TOTAL EXPENSES, ALL ITEMS:** 2340

**Matching Fund:**

**In-Kind Services: Provide FTE and name of personnel who have committed to in-kind services.**

## D. ASSESSMENT PLAN:

### D-1. What are the anticipated outcomes and specific measurements for success?

Each program sponsored by this initiative will have a pre and post evaluation guiding attached to the learning goals of the program. We hope and believe we will find that students come in not knowing that they have alternative options to their intended major. Upon engaging with the programming and trained individuals, we hope students discover that there is more than one path, and that the alternate path is still here at the College at Brockport.

We hope to track, assess and better retain these individuals, while guiding students to the programs that are not currently on their radar.

## E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

E-1. Please provide any additional information to assist in the review of the proposal, including why the initiative cannot be funded from divisional resources.

This initiative was collectively brought up by members of five different departments (Academic Advisement: Deb Birkins, Career Services: Chris O'Connor, Living Learning Communities: Monique Rew-Bigalow, Pre-professional Health Program: Maggie Logan, and Healthcare Studies: Patti Follansbee). Individually each area already does as much as they can, but without the formal collaboration, students are still not receiving the help they need. Travel and professional organization funding is far from easy to come by, particularly for a new initiative that has potential, but is untested. The thought that, "well they should do it, we can't spend the money" has come up a number of times. Nobody invested in this proposal wants that to be the standard we set, so everyone is willing to give a little bit of time, a lot of creativity and find a way to continue membership fees and programming fees into the future.

**Upload up to three supplemental files here (not required):** [On file]

**Signature of Project Lead:** [on file]

**Email:** tchew@brockport.edu

**Signatures of sponsors are on file in the Administration and Finance Division.**

**Sponsor 1 Comments:**

**Sponsor 2 comments:** Excellent proposal

**Sponsor 3 Comments:**

**Date Created:** 2017-03-09 13:03:13