# Meijer Honors College

**Strategic Plan**

**2010-2015**

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**Mission:** The Mission of the Meijer Honors College is to provide a challenging interdisciplinary liberal education in a personal, nurturing living/learning environment**.** Honors education encourages students to develop high-level skills, knowledge and expertise, and prepares them to be intellectually curious, life-long learners and extraordinarily capable leaders in their communities and the world.

**Vision**: The Meijer Honors College will be unique among major state university programs (in Michigan and nationally) in that it provides more personal attention for students, a vibrant scholarly community, team-taught interdisciplinary courses with small sections, more substantial and individual preparation and opportunities for student research and presentation, and significant active learning (service-learning, international experience, research, etc.).

**Goals and Objectives 2010-2015**

**Goal 1: The Meijer Honors College will more fully develop a nurturing living/learning environment by fostering interconnections amongst students, staff, and faculty.**

**1.1** By 2015, Honors Community Council will sponsor 6 academic events/year, and will be involved in planning and promoting the Meijer Lecture Series.

**1.2** By 2013, 20% of freshman courses will participate in honors-wide co-curricular activities (not just outside activities created for specific courses).

**1.3** By 2013, 20% of Honors students will attend formal and/or informal sessions for a Meijer Lecture.

**1.4** By 2013, the mentor program will have more effective selection, training, and accountability process.

**1.5** Grow fulltime permanent faculty to 6 by 2011 and residential faculty to 12 by 2015.

**1.6** By 2013, have 2-4 faculty regularly attending MEHA or NCHC annual conference.

**1.7** In Fall 2011, develop committee to nominate candidates for Meijer Endowed Chair and create structures/mechanisms for the chair to have maximum impact on students.

**1.8** Have first Meijer Endowed Chair in place by Fall 2012.

**1.9** Develop a plan to work towards a more diverse student body in Honors, perhaps by partnering with high schools, attracting more transfer students, using Meijer First Generation Scholarship, etc.

**Goal 2: The Meijer Honors College will increase student retention and promote excellence and student success (by increasing number of high impact practices each student participates in).**

**2.1** Grow Honors College active students by 10% by 2015.

**2.2** Increase internal transfers 50% by 2015.

**2.3** Increase external transfers 150% by 2015.

**2.4** The “Scholars’ Institute” piloted in Honors in the summer of 2010 will be assessed for effectiveness as a high impact

practice increasing student success.

**2.5** If the “Scholars’ Institute” proves to have increased student success in Honors, it will be honed and offered again. If it

continues to be successful, it will be offered each summer as an option for incoming freshmen.

**2.6** Consult with other units of the university to help offer Scholars’ Institutes more widely.

**2.7** By 2015, increase student retention by reducing % of freshmen who fall below 3.2 GPA first semester to 15% or less.

**2.8** Develop plan to incorporate internships, practica, and/or other co-curricular experiences by 2015.

**2.9** 40% of honors students study abroad by 2015.

**2.10** Build ongoing international service-learning Ghana trip with multiple sites and participants from at least several different majors/departments.

**2.11** 30% of honors students present research on or off campus by 2015.

**2.12** 15% of freshmen present at SSD or off-campus by 2015.

**2.13** 20% of classes offer service-learning component by 2015.

**2.14** Have four honors students/year win nationally-competitive fellowships by 2015.

**2.15** Have 15% of courses interdisciplinary problem-based (preferably team-taught) by 2015.

**Goal 3: Participate in and contribute to interdisciplinary initiatives in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and the university as a whole.**

**3.1** Meijer endowed faculty member take leadership role in Center for Creative Inquiry.

**3.2** Develop one other interdisciplinary international service-learning experience by 2015.

**3.3** Develop Center for Big History.

**Goal 4: Implement a governance system for Honors.**

**4.1** By 2013, have fully-implemented governance system in Honors.

**Goal 5: The Meijer Fellowship Office will add value to student education and help prepare them to shape their futures.**

**5.1** The Meijer Fellowship Office will play an instrumental role in building a Culture of Scholarly Engagement at GVSU**.**

**5.2** The Meijer Fellowship Office will increase the number of students making a positive contribution to West Michigan, the state, the nation and the world, through the services offered through the Office of Fellowships**.**

**5.3** The Meijer Fellowship Office will implement assessment plan to determine effectiveness and future directions of Office of Fellowships.

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| **University Objective/ Brooks Obj** | **Meijer Honors College**  **Goal** | **Honors College objective(s)** | **Metric** | **Baseline** | **Time-frame** | **Strategy(ies)**  **Action(s)** | **Groups Involved** | **Resources** | **Status as of 1/4/10** |
| University  2.4.1  Brooks Obj  1.3, 2.1, 2.2 | **Goal 1: The Meijer Honors College will more fully develop a nurturing living/learning environment by fostering interconnections amongst students, staff, and faculty.** | **1.1** By 2015, Honors Community Council will sponsor 6 academic events/year, and will be involved in planning and promoting the Meijer Lecture Series. | 6 | 2-3 | 2015 |  | Staff, faculty, and HCC |  |  |
| University  3.4  Brooks Obj.  2.9 |  | **1.2** By 2013, 20% of freshman courses will participate in honors-wide co-curricular activities (not just outside activities created for specific courses). | 20% | 5% or less | 2013 |  |  |  |  |
| University  3.4  Brooks Obj.  2.9 |  | **1.3** By 2013, 20% of Honors students will attend formal and/or informal sessions for a Meijer Lecture. | 20% | None held yet. | 2013 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **1.4** By 2013, the mentor program will have more effective selection, training, and accountability process. |  |  | 2013 |  | Shawn Clark |  |  |
| University  5.4  Brooks Obj.  1.1 |  | **1.5** Grow fulltime permanent faculty to 6 by 2011 and residential faculty to 12 by 2015. | Permanent: 6  Residential: 12 | Permanent: 4  Residential: 6 | 2015 |  |  |  |  |
| University  5.4  Brooks Obj.  1.2 |  | **1.6** By 2013, have 2-4 faculty regularly attending MEHA or NCHC annual conference. | 2-4 | 0 | 2013 |  |  |  |  |
| University  5.4  Brooks Obj.  1.1 |  | **1.7** In Fall 2011, develop committee to nominate candidates for Meijer Endowed Chair and create structures/mechanisms for the chair to have maximum impact on students. |  |  | Dec. 2011 |  |  |  |  |
| University  5.4  Brooks Obj.  1.1 |  | **1.8** Have first Meijer Endowed Chair in place by Fall 2012. |  |  | Fall 2012 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **1.9** Develop a plan to work towards a more diverse student body in Honors, perhaps by partnering with high schools, attracting more transfer students, using Meijer First Generation Scholarship, etc. |  |  | Fall 2015 |  |  |  |  |

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| **University Objective** | **Meijer Honors College**  **Goal** | **Honors College objective(s)** | **Metric** | **Baseline** | **Time-frame** | **Strategy(ies)**  **Action(s)** | **Responsible Person/Group** | **Resources** | **Status as of 1/4/10** |
| University  3.5.1  Brooks Obj.  2.3 | **Goal 2**: The Meijer Honors College will increase student retention and promote excellence and student success (by increasing number of high impact practices each student participates in). | **2.1** Grow Honors College active students by 10% by 2015. | 1122 | 1020 (2009) | 2015 | **1.1.1** Improve recruitment processes  1.1.2 Increase yield of applicants to 70% (from 65%)  1.1.3 Increase retention (see 2.4) |  |  |  |
| University  3.5.1  Brooks Obj.  2.3 |  | **2.2** Increase internal transfers 50% by 2015. | 15 | 10 (2009) | 2015 |  |  |  |  |
| University  3.5.1  Brooks Obj.  2.3 |  | **2.3** Increase external transfers 150% by 2015. | 25 | 09 (2009) | 2015 | **2.3.1** Reach out to community colleges and create articulation agreements | Honors director and staff; faculty participants; student assistants |  |  |
| University  2.1- 2.5  Brooks Obj.  2.1 |  | **2.4** “The Scholars’ Institute” piloted in Honors in the summer of 2010 will be assessed for effectiveness as a high impact practice increasing student success. |  |  | May 2011 | **2.4.** Assessment team | 2.4. Assessment team |  |  |
| University  2.1- 2.5  Brooks Obj.  2.1 |  | **2. 4** If the “Scholars’ Institute” proves to have increased student success in Honors, it will be honed and offered again. If it continues to be successful, it will be offered each summer as an option for incoming freshmen. |  |  | Summer 2011, and each year following. |  | Honors director and staff; faculty participants; student assistants. |  |  |
| University  2.1- 2.5  Brooks Obj.  2.1 |  | 2.6 Consult with other units of the university to help offer Scholars’ Institutes more widely | Two Scholars Institutes—one in Honors; one outside |  | Summer 2012 |  | Honors director; faculty participants; consultant Dan Apple; student assistants |  |  |
| University  2.1- 2.5  Brooks Obj.  2.1 |  | 2.7 By 2015, increase student retention by reducing % of freshmen who fall below 3.2 GPA first semester to 15% or less | 15% or less | 22-23% | 2015 |  |  |  |  |
| University  3.4, 3.5  Brooks Obj.  1.4, 2.2, 2.9, 4.2 |  | 2.8 Develop plan to incorporate interships, practica, and/or other co-curricular experiences by 2015. |  |  | 2015 |  |  |  |  |
| University  3.4, 3.5  Brooks Obj.  1.4, 2.2, 2.8 |  | **2.9** 40% of honors students study abroad by 2015 | 40% | 30% | 2015 | Provide more curricular options—international service learning; substitution for Civ. sequence; advising; promotional materials |  |  |  |
| University  2.7, 3.4, 3.5  Brooks Obj.  1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 4.3 |  | **2.10** Build ongoing international service-learning Ghana trip with multiple sites and participants from at least several different majors/departments |  |  | 2013 |  | Janaan Decker/Jeff Chamberlain/faculty |  |  |
| University  3.4, 3.5, 5.4  Brooks Obj.  1.3, 1.4, 2.2 |  | **2.11** 30% of honors students present research on or off campus by 2015 | 30% | 12% | 2015 | Freshmen paper competitions; emphasis on MEHA and Grand Rapids Honors Conferences; Emphasize in classes and senior projects |  |  |  |
| University  5.4  Brooks Obj.  1.3 |  | **2.12** 15% of freshmen present at SSD or off-campus by 2015 | 8% | 15% | 2015 | Scholars’ Institute Emphasis; Freshmen paper competitions |  |  |  |
| University  3.5.1  Brooks Obj.  4.2 |  | **2.13** 20% of classes offer service-learning component by 2015 | 20% | 10% | 2015 | Invite faculty who are already doing service learning to teach in Honors; encourage current faculty |  |  |  |
| University  8.9 |  | **2.14** Have four honors students/year win nationally-competitive fellowships by 2015 | 4 | 0 | 2015 | Introduce students to idea earlier—Orientation, information sessions, personal invitations, freshman seminar; work closely with fellowship advisor |  |  |  |
| University  3.4, 3.5  Brooks Obj.  1.4, 2.2 |  | **2.15** Have 15% of courses interdisciplinary problem-based (preferably team-taught) by 2015 | 15% | 10% |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **University Objective** | | **Meijer Honors College**  **Goal** | | **Honors College objective(s)** | | **Metric** | | **Baseline** | | **Time-frame** | | | **Strategy(ies)**  **Action(s)** | | **Responsible Person / Group** | | **Resources** | | **Status as of 1/4/10** | |
| University  5.4, 6.4, 8.1.3  Brooks Obj.  6.1 | | **Goal 3** Participate in and contribute to interdisciplinary initiatives in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and the university as a whole | | **3.1** Meijer endowed faculty member take leadership role in Center for Creative Inquiry (or whatever it is called) | |  | |  | | 2015 | | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| University  3.4, 3.5  Brooks Obj.  1.4, 2.2, 4.2 | |  | | **3.2** Develop one other interdisciplinary international service-learning experience by 2015 | |  | |  | |  | | |  | | Director, Honors faculty & staff, Paul Lane (?) | |  | |  | |
| Brooks Obj.  3.4 | |  | | **3.3** Develop Center for Big History | |  | |  | | 2015 | | |  | | Craig Benjamin | |  | |  | |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| **University Objective** | | **Meijer Honors College**  **Goal** | | **Honors College objective(s)** | | **Metric** | | **Baseline** | | | **Time-frame** | | **Strategy(ies)**  **Action(s)** | | **Responsible Person / Group** | | **Resources** | | **Status as of 1/4/10** | |
| University  1.4 | | **Goal 4:**  Implement a governance system for Honors | | **4.1** By 2013, have fully-implemented governance system in Honors | | . | |  | | 2013 | | |  | | Honors director, full-time & residence faculty; led by Kurt Ellenberger | |  | |  | |
| University  3.4, 3.5  Brooks Obj.  1.3, 2.2 | | **Goal 5:** The Meijer Fellowship Office will add value to student education and help prepare them to shape their futures | | **5.1** The Meijer Fellowship Office will play an instrumental role in building a Culture of Scholarly Engagement at GVSU | |  | |  | | 2015 | | | 1) Have a well-established Office of Fellowships that is well-integrated into the campus community; well-known and respected by all undergraduate and graduate programs; and growing in regional and national recognition.  2) Collaborate with both academic and student affairs on effective and creative programming to develop and secure nationally competitive award winners (i.e. personal statement writing workshops; study abroad funding sessions; leadership development)  3) Closely align with the Office of Undergraduate Research to implement effective programming and advising services regarding research and graduate study opportunities | | Meijer Fellowship office | |  | |  | |
| University  3.4, 3.5, 8.9  Brooks Obj.  1.3, 2.2 | |  | | **5.2.** The Meijer Fellowship Office will increase the number of students making a positive contribution to West Michigan, the state, the nation and the world, through the services offered through the Office of Fellowships | | 50  6-8  1  20% of students preparing to apply for nationally competitive scholarships  10-12 | | 20  4  0  0  2-3 | | 2015  2015  2015  2015  2015 | | | 1) Increase the number of students applying for nationally competitive awards  2) Increase the number of students applying to and gaining admission to graduate and professional programs  3) Increase the number of students participating in Teach for America, PeaceCorps, JobCorps and other such organizations because of fellowship advising  4) Increase the number of students participating in undergraduate research opportunities and study abroad through nationally competitive award opportunities  5) Increase the number of students earning teaching certification through nationally competitive award opportunities  6) Increase the number of students engaging in undergraduate research opportunities in preparation of award opportunities (25% of students meeting for fellowships advising  7) Secure significantly more nationally competitive award winners annually | | Meijer Fellowship Office | |  | |  | |
| University  3.4, 3.5  Brooks Obj.  1.3, 2.2 | |  | | **5.3** The Meijer Fellowship Office will implement assessment plan to determine effectiveness and future directions of Office of Fellowships | |  | |  | | 2015 | | |  | | Meijer Fellowship Office | |  | |  | |