

Spring Hill College Strategic Plan Pillars and Initiative Examples

Overall focus: Enhanced student experience that aligns with our Jesuit Catholic education, based on our legacy of developing leaders for a significant impact on society. **Overall focus is on student success.**

Jesuit Catholic Mission - To lean in and embrace the Jesuit mission

- **Impact of this pillar** – The Jesuit catholic education is important because it brings together the humanistic and professional development of our students, with a focus on their heart, mind and body. Creating well rounded graduates with a value-based education will significantly impact our society as these are the foundations needed for strong leaders to solve the complex problems of the world.
- **Changes as a result of this** – Ability to provide more students with experiences for them to fully understand the Jesuit catholic mission to become leaders in the service of others.
- **Philanthropic value/need of this** – there is a strong need in our society for Spring Hill College graduates with this value-based education to be future leaders of our society.
- **Examples of fundable opportunities**
 - **Foley Center** – Our Center on campus that collaborates with the community to provide service opportunities for our students. An endowed Director position would assist with building a strong Center that enhances the service learning of our students while embracing and strengthening the Mobile Community.
 - **Funding to support immersive student mission programs that are transformational for students.** Examples include ISIP – where students spend one week in an immersive social justice activity in community in another country (e.g. Belize, Guatemala); JEP is a Jesuit Experience where students spend one week in an underserved American community focused on social justice activity and building community (e.g. Appalachian trail community); Italy Center – we host a study abroad experience for our students, and others from Jesuit Colleges/Universities located in Bologna, Italy with a strong focus on the Jesuit mission of service and social justice focus. This has been called the “Crown Jewel of Jesuit study abroad” experiences. We are currently getting close to maxing out at our capacity due to our rental space – a great opportunity would be to solicit donations to purchase our own building in Italy Center for the classrooms and living spaces. Students currently stay in hotel.
 - **Faculty/Staff mission programs.** Examples include the Ignatian Colleague Program where we send 1-2 faculty/staff/administrators to an 18-month long program to learn more about Ignatian spirituality and Jesuit charism. Currently the President and Provost are participating

and I will be going to the Dominican Republic for a week in December for my immersion experience, and Rebecca will be going to the Border for hers. This is very important for leaders and others to understand the mission so that we can base our decisions and vision on this mission. These participants (past/present) work together on campus to make sure that we are embodying that mission across campus. Ignatian Seminars are for interested faculty and staff that want to learn more about Ignatian Spirituality.

- **Mission Office** – funding to support the overall mission office that focuses on programming for students across campus that are not able to attend some of these immersive experiences. This is inclusive for students of all religions to provide retreats, and other activities to educate them on the Jesuit Catholic mission.
- **Board mission formation programs** – The AJCU (Assoc of Jesuit Colleges and Universities) is a strong network of 28 institutions. They run the ICP program and also provide training to Board of Trustee members to better understand what is meant by a Jesuit Catholic education. We have sent some trustees to this 3-day retreat, and have also brought a Jesuit priest to campus in June 2023 to facilitate our own board retreat on formation. It is very important for the board to understand what it means to be a Jesuit and Catholic college to assist them in their governance role.
- **Ignatian Spirituality Center** – we have the availability of using one of the Jesuit houses to open an Ignatian Spirituality Center. This house is adjacent to the campus and currently has 6 bedrooms with *ensuite* bathrooms. It would also be perfect for housing smaller retreats – out of our Special Events recruitment office. We did a Facilities Condition Assessment and we would need funding for some renovations. We have an academic program in the summer focused on the development of Spiritual Leaders which would be a great complement to opening a Spirituality and Retreat Center.
- **Endowment for Foley Center Director, mission immersion experiences for students, scholarships in general to give more students the opportunity to experience this transformational Jesuit education and experience.**

Academic Excellence

- **Impact of this pillar** – Jesuit Colleges and Universities are known for their academic excellence and rigor with bringing together the humanistic and professional development of our students to form well rounded graduates and leaders. Funding will allow us to add new programs, innovative teaching and learning, and state of the art equipment to enhance their academic experience.
- **Changes as a result of this** – Ability to launch new programs, purchase state of the art equipment, provide faculty development opportunities for research and teaching, and ultimately improve our retention and graduation rates and increase enrollment.
- **Philanthropic value/need of this** – Need to make sure we are developing relevant academic programs, providing the best learning experience so that our students are prepared for successful careers to become leaders in their field of study.

- **Examples of fundable opportunities**
 - Health and Science Innovation Building
 - There are many needs for the new building. The \$35M is for the construction of the building itself – will need funding for some of the specialty simulation and lab equipment for nursing and sciences to provide state of the art learning experiences to best prepare our students for entering the workforce. Also need funding for ongoing maintenance of the building.
 - We are focusing on innovation in teaching, learning and research. With innovative teaching and learning – having state of the art technical simulation and lab equipment, faculty can focus on innovative ways to use this technology interactively for better student engagement, understanding and success. With faculty development funding, faculty can present innovating pedagogies at conferences to assist in their professional development and promotion opportunities. For research, we would need funding to be able to establish research funding for faculty to work directly with students on research projects in the field of health and science. Also, the new building will provide interdisciplinary spaces for innovative learning that aligns with current healthcare environment.
- **New Programs**
 - Provost has been working with faculty on the development of programs at undergraduate and graduate level. These opportunities came out of meetings with healthcare providers in Mobile, marketing research and enrollment trends. Some examples at the undergraduate level include Exercise Science/Kinesiology; Respiratory Care; and some examples at the graduate level include (need from Rebecca). These programs are currently under development and must be approved by the faculty before launching.
- **Endowment Opportunities: Endowed Division Chairs for all of the areas provides budget relief and the funding can support research, faculty development, and other programs that can directly impact the teaching and learning innovation for students. Also need scholarships that support these majors, as well as endowed Division chair opportunities. Endowed research opportunities as well or student research scholarships to work with faculty. Can focus on scholarships for students that are first generation or come from lower economic income levels.**

Facilities – To enhance our beautiful campus

- **Impact of this pillar** – We have been voted the #1 most beautiful college campus in the South by Southern living for two years in a row. This beautiful 200-year-old campus has a rich historical legacy in Mobile, but also requires significant maintenance to maintain. Improving our facilities will impact the student experience both in and out of the classroom and provides the best teaching and learning environment for faculty. Staff and students.
- **Changes as a result of this** – Renovations, maintenance, new buildings and athletic fields will improve enrollment and recruitment, retention and graduation rates for students. It will also allow us to recruit and retain coaches, faculty and staff which also improves overall student success and

can bring recognition to the College from winning athletic championships and being more competitive.

- **Philanthropic value/need of this** – To provide the best teaching and learning environment for our students to increase the probability of their success. Also bring pride to the alumni from a beautiful campus.
- **Examples of fundable opportunities**
 - New and renovated athletic facilities – we are in the process of an athletic analysis to determine which division/conference we will be in. The analysis has already shown evidence that our athletic facilities need significant improvement to be competitive, and to be able to recruit and retain athletes.
 - Renovation of historical buildings for events/classrooms – we would like to expand the use of our campus for external events, which requires funding to renovate buildings like Stewartfield and the Byrne Library. These are historic buildings that have specific renovation requirements.
 - Deferred maintenance – Aramark recently completed a Facilities Condition Assessment for every building on campus. This includes a detailed assessment for each building, including deferred maintenance, and future maintenance that will be required based on life cycle. The future maintenance needs occur mostly in year 4 which coincides well with the comprehensive campaign
 - Classroom space/educational experience – with the new Science building, we will be moving Nursing, Science and Math into the new building. We also need to look for funding for other departments/buildings and determine best ways to renovate those buildings.
 - With the new building and the need for Athletic facilities – there is a need for a revised campus master plan to determine best plans for campus to meet future needs. Which buildings should be demolished, renovated and which athletic facilities/fields need to be moved, built or improved for the best student experience.
 - Renovate the pool room in the Outlaw Center to provide recreational space for the students to enhance their out of classroom experience on the Hill. Could include a rock wall, basketball courts, other amenities.
 - **Endowment/Scholarship opportunities – need endowments for maintenance for each building (maybe approach original donors for this)? Also need athletic sponsorships to support either athletic teams or improvement of facilities. Or provide endowed scholarships that can provide some additional financial support for athletes.**



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