Women's Giving Circle Grant Application

Instructions:

1. Complete all information in the grant proposal application.
2. Adhere to recommended text limits as indicated
3. Define any acronyms that are used in the proposal.
4. Upload the WGC Grant Application Budget Request Sheet as the final page of this application.
5. Please note that the WGC will not accept repeat applications beyond more than two consecutive years.
6. If you have questions, contact your unit's development officer for any clarifications or assistance in preparing your proposal.
7. Applications are due to the Women's Giving Circle by 5:00 p.m., May 15, Monday. Please deliver your application to your dean or development officer for review and approval prior to the submission deadline. We advise you to give these individuals sufficient time to make recommendations for changes and allow yourself time to execute them.
8. Remember to save a copy of your proposal before final submission.
9. We ask that you keep the following aspects of the Women's Giving Circle grant program in mind as you complete your application:

Women's Giving Circle Mission

To support innovative programs and research at the University of Arkansas

Women's Giving Circle Vision

To engage and empower women as philanthropic leaders at the University of Arkansas

Women's Giving Circle Funding Priorities

Support and promote scholarship, research, and service
Enrich the quality of life of women and children
Encourage outreach and engagement in Arkansas

Areas that meet the strategic priorities for the university and the WGC

- Focus on retention/graduation
- Increase undergraduate opportunities, i.e., building the endowment; involving students in research or service learning project with a collaborative bent
- Promote graduate student participation in research
- Focus on collaboration
- Follow the land grant mission to fund projects that support needs in the region and the state with emphasis on collaboration between colleges/departments/units
- Invest in faculty excellence
- Recruit first-generation students from Arkansas
- Advance the mission of the WGC

Identifying Information:

College or Unit Affiliation

Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences
Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design
J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences
Sam M. Walton College of Business
College of Education and Health Professions
College of Engineering
Honors College
Graduate School and International Education
School of Law
Student Affairs
University Libraries
Other

Please specify ***OTHER*** *unit affiliation:* VCAC, University Perspectives

Title of Proposal: Arkansas Kickstart Leadership Development Initiative

Primary Contact and Title: Kelly Westeen, Dir. of University Perspectives

Primary Contact E-mail kwestee@uark.edu

Primary Contact Phone Number 479-575-5477

Project Summary (200 word maximum)

The Arkansas Kickstart program, piloted in Fall 2016, a jointed initiative between the Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and New Student and Family Program, focuses on peer mentorship in University Perspectives (UP) classrooms. The program's goal is to train and develop peer mentors to deploy into UP classrooms to help bolster not only incoming student success and retention but also continuing student success by serving as a sophomore year retention effort. Peer mentors are selected and trained in leadership and peer mentoring theories, helping them serve as strong leaders who can make a lasting impact on a first-year student success. The mentors enroll in a leadership development coursed to develop their skills and to discuss the challenges of peer mentoring.

This proposal seeks to expand the efforts of this program starting Spring 2018. Currently, the program is funded to support 30 peer mentors by giving them a stipend to cover the cost of a leadership course required for their service. This proposal seeks funding for an additional 30 mentors. Investing further resources into this program can have a positive impact in retention not only for incoming students but also continuing students.

Is this:

- (●) an expansion of a current program
- ( ) a new program

Please list media sites (if any) utilized by your project or program to publicize the project/program, i.e., website, social media, etc?

Arkansas Kickstart application site:
http://nsfp.uark.edu/first-year-initiatives/arkansas_kickstart.php

If your project is funded, describe innovative ways how the WGC will be recognized in the success/completion of your project?

If the Arkansas Kickstart program is funded, there are a few ways the program would acknowledge this generous gift. Peer mentors in the program receive a t-shirt to help identify them as part of this cohort. The WGC's sponsorship would be displayed on this shirt. Further acknowledgment of the Circle's gift would be detailed on the peer mentor course syllabus, and time would be spent in peer mentor training acknowledging the group's contributions so mentors receiving funding from this program would understand the WGC's impact on the program. At the end of the year, the program would like to select an outstanding peer mentor and recognize him or her with an award named in recognition of the WGC: The Women's Giving Circle Outstanding Peer Mentor Award.

Grant Proposal

What is the specific scholarly or community needs your grant request addresses? (100 word maximum)

The Arkansas Kickstart program is committed to the university's goal of increasing student retention, not only for first-year students but also continuing students. Peer mentorship is a proven tenant of student success, and this program seeks to capitalize on it. Additionally, the program fulfills the university's sensitivity to diversity and seeks to expand students' awareness and definitions of diversity. This grant would allow the program to continue these retention and student success efforts and help foster a community of critically thinking young scholars committed to improving their campus community.

How does your proposed project or program assess how these needs will be redressed? *(100 word maximum)*

Research shows that peer mentoring has a positive effect on both the mentees and mentors, while additionally increasing retention. Though the university's retention and graduation rates have been on the rise, more can be done. By having a positive campus role model in a peer mentor, first-year students gain valuable insight into success strategies, time management, effective communication, and available campus resources while feeling like they have a campus advocate and friend. Additionally, the program seeks to select peer mentors who are traditionally in high-risk populations to help them develop leadership skills and further encourage continued enrollment at the university.

Describe any unique and/or innovative aspects of your project or program that improves what is already known about your area of inquiry. *(100 word maximum)*

The Arkansas Kickstart program has the added dimension of interdisciplinary collaboration, bridging the oftentimes large gap between student affairs and academics. This collaboration can yield positive results by fostering collaboration on campus and has potential benefits for students, utilizing the strengths of both student affairs and academic affairs professionals.

Requiring peer mentors to enroll in a leadership development course is another innovative aspect of this program. Mentors gain valuable leadership theory and guidance from instructors while receiving hands-on experience by engaging with students. Such a course is an innovative approach to a sophomore year and beyond retention program.

Please list up to five (5) expected outputs and outcomes with corresponding measurements. (Please note: just listing outputs is not sufficient.)

•Increased retention from year one to year two: Evaluation of university retention rates and compare between those with a peer mentor and those without

•Increased first-year overall success: Evaluation of first-year GPAs and compare between students enrolled in sections with mentors with those without

•Strong sense of campus belonging for both mentees and mentors: Post-program evaluation responses sent out to mentees and mentors

Document if there are other programs/projects that attempt to address the same needs as your proposal. If so, describe whether and how you will collaborate with them.*(100-word maximum)*

The Freshman Engineering program has a peer mentor program on campus, but the programs vary in many ways. The engineering program addresses the needs of engineering students only, while the Arkansas Kickstart program addresses the needs of a larger campus population and majors within four colleges on campus. This program does not intend to collaborate in speicific ways with engineering, but this program will continue to keep abreast of their activities and periodically ask for feedback or advice.

Demographic Considerations

First generation students engaged in the project: ◉ Yes ◯ No

Number of current UA students engaged in the project: **600, with the hopes of doubling that**

Geographic region served:

- ○ Northwest Arkansas
- ○ Southwest Arkansas
- ○ Northeast Arkansas
- ○ Southeast Arkansas
- ○ Central Arkansas
- ◉ Campus

Budgetary Considerations

Have you received WGC Funding before?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Please provide the year(s) and project name(s).

Total proposed budget for project or program: (proposed budgets of more than $20K will not be considered; in typical years WGC proposals fall within in the $5-10K range):
$ 14,500

Should match Item 1 on Budget Request sheet.

Please list total funding commitments from external or campus sources to date:
$ 13,500

Should match Item 2 on Budget Request sheet.

How much, if any, of your request involves funding for the following?

Please estimate using percentages

Student Compensation: 93.1%
Equipment: ____%

Total funds requested from WGC Grant:
$ 14,500

Should match Item 3 on Budget Request sheet.

In the rare case that grant resources cannot be expended, be prepared to return the remaining funds to WGC.

If selected as a recipient for a WGC grants, you will be required to submit two progress reports, including a budget summary, as well as a poster of your project for purposes of grant presentation.

Please be sure to save this document within the Grant Application Packet.

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Grant Budget Request

College or Unit Affiliation: **Student Affairs and University Perspectives**

Proposal Title: Arkansas Kickstart Leadership Development Initiative

Primary Contact Name: Kelly Westeen

(Itemized summary of planned expenses for 2017 grant cycle & estimated income for the period.)

Expenses

Item	Total Proposal Budget (1)	Amount Already Funded (2)	Amount Needed	Amount Requested from WGC (3)
Personnel	5200	0	5200	*
Fringe Benefits	1492.92	0	1492.92	*
Travel				*
(e.g. airfare)				
Student Compensation	13500	13500	13500	13500
Equipment				
Supplies / Materials	1000	0	1000	1000
(e.g. medical syringes)				
Marketing				
(e.g. brochures)				
In-Kind Goods/Services				
Other				
Total Expenses	**21192.92**		**21192.92**	**14500**

Funding Commitments to Date

Source	Amount Committed (2)	Open Grant Requests (Grants requested but not committed)
Subtotal	*0*	*0*
Total Income	**0**	

Minimum funds requested from WGC
5000

*
Black boxes represent line items the WGC does not fund.

Comments: Please use this section to explain / clarify any line item.