START
Description and Guidelines
College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences’ START program will provide our faculty and students with the opportunity to put our metropolitan university designation into action by engaging in community research, development, and outreach projects. The program will help faculty partner with local institutions, agencies, and other community groups to develop initiatives that provide significant hands-on learning opportunities for our students, offer measurable benefit to the residents of the Fort Wayne metropolitan region, and positively and tangibly impact the greater Fort Wayne region.

Through the START program, faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences have the opportunity to apply for funding to support community-focused projects that are research and/or learning based and are designed to improve the quality of life for people in the Fort Wayne metropolitan region.

The START program will accept applications in fall 2017, with initial disbursements planned for spring 2018. In the project’s initial phase, the Arts and Sciences Executive Committee will work with the Dean of the College to establish a review panel for the submitted applications. If the program is successful, it will be renewed annually, contingent upon funding availability, and the Executive Committee will establish a permanent review committee, which may include members of the College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board.

The College of Arts and Sciences Office of Media and Communication will support funded projects as needed and appropriate.

Funding

- Up to $5000 to support project
- Monies can be used for direct support of the project, subject to university regulations
- Monies cannot be used to provide course buyouts for sponsoring faculty member
- Monies cannot be recaptured by sponsoring faculty member as salary

Application Deadlines

- October 27, 2017: for projects commencing spring 2018
- February 28, 2018: for projects commencing summer/fall 2018
Guidelines:

1. Open to all full-time faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences.

2. Projects that build lasting partnerships with local institutions are preferred.

3. Projects may be focused on research, teaching, development, or experiential learning, but regardless of the nature of the project, the following criteria must be met and detailed accordingly in the body of the proposal. Projects must:
   a. Improve the quality of life in some fashion for the residents of the Fort Wayne metropolitan region;
   b. Involve students and provide unique learning opportunities or experiences for these students; and
   c. Triangulate faculty, students, and at least one community organization/partner.

4. Proposals must include the following:
   a. Description of the project, including information about how it meets the three criteria outlined above (not to exceed 1500 words).
   b. A detailed, projected budget for the project (not to exceed $5000).
   c. A timeline for the project from inception to completion.

5. Within a month of the completion of a project, the funded faculty member must submit a brief (1–2 page) post-project report to the College of Arts and Sciences detailing the activities, successes, challenges, and so forth, of the initiative. These reports will allow the college to refine the program, improve outcomes, and market future initiatives.

6. Funded faculty members must be willing to work with the Office of Media and Communication on the development and promotion of stories related to the project (which might include contributing to posts on social media about the project, providing a description of the project and regular updates, interviews about the project, photos of faculty and students in the field working on the project, etc.) Some projects may be featured as stories in Endeavors and other outlets.

7. START funds are not automatically renewable, but faculty members who receive funding may apply for renewal in subsequent years. The hope is that successful projects with long-term potential will become self-sustaining after the initial year through other grants or community/partner investment. That may not be possible in all cases, of course. Projects that become self-sustaining are not necessarily subject to all of the stipulations outlined under “Funding” on the first page.

8. Applications should be submitted to the College of Arts and Sciences (Karen Burtnette) by the appropriate deadline listed on the first page.