

# 2020 Initiatives Proposal Form

Thank you for your interest in submitting a proposal to the 2020 Initiatives process.

Please complete this form, save it to your hard drive, then email a copy to [W](#)  
[wide impact](#)

- Clearly addressing one of the four LEGS themes from the 2020 strategic plan
- Specific budget details provided
- Realistic outcomes identified
- Assessment measures specified

Please

Strategic Theme (choose one)	
	Learning
	Engagement
	Global Perspectives
	Sustainability

Strategic Objectives: choose one primary (P) in main theme and up to three secondary (S) in any themes	
Learning	
Deliver high value-added learning experiences and promote scholarly activity (S1)	Reward scholarly applications (ER2)

Promote liberal arts ideal to devl-nTc 10t d32 113n 674.ev-24.3(ot)-8.1(e)-7.9ealor



**Budget Summary**

Item	FY201 July 1, 201 – June 30, 201	FY201 July 1, 201 – June 30, 201	FY201 July 1, 201 – June 30, 201	Notes/Comments (stipends, supplies, hospitality, etc.)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

2020 Proposal - Engagement  
Pick Six: Engaging New Students

Proposal prepared by Christine Ferri, PhD  
Coordinator of Freshman Seminars

Introduction/Background:

Stockton's First Year Experience Program is already successful in many ways. Our very high first year full-time retention rate is a notable achievement with retention rates increasing from 82% in Fall 2008 to 87% in Fall 2016. The Fall 2017 freshman class includes 1590 students, the largest freshman class in our history. We can expect to see cohorts of this size or larger during this time of growth for the university and therefore are called to create new programs that strive to engage new students in campus events. We propose a 2-year pilot program that encourages students to participate in extracurricular academic and community service experiences in their first year here.

The Pick Six Program

Another goal of the Pick Six Program is to extend the First Year Experience activities into the Spring semester. The majority of students take their freshman seminar in the fall and the Freshman Convocation is always held in September. Constitution Day and the Fannie Lou Hamer lecture are also held in the fall semester each year. Similarly, Make a Difference Day, September's Day of Service, and the Stockton Myths and Legends presentation are always in the fall. With the preponderance of events in the fall semester, we want to provide incremental incentives that encourage reflection at the end of each semester. Any student who attends four events by Thanksgiving will be invited to the December reflection breakfast. However, we purposefully include the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service as an event and encourage participation in Center for Community Engagement events in the spring semester. In addition, holding a reflection breakfast in March makes spring semester activities a part of the first-year experience as well.

Activities :

There will be three main components to the Pick Six Program:

- 1.) Selecting events and advertising the program . In the Spring 2018 semester, Christine Ferri will meet with the coordinators of potential events and programs to discuss including the event on the list of 10 choices. We are looking to include campuswide events that happen every year. Beginning with the new student orientation in June 2018 we will inform students about the Pick Six Program, including dates and times of the events as soon as they are available. Flyers detailing the program will be included in Summer Orientation and Welcome Week materials. Freshman seminar, FRST and F designated course professors will also be informed about the program so they can pass on the information to their students. Finally, posters advertising the program will be displayed around campus.
- 2.) Recording attendance at events . The ID swipe system will be used to track student attendance at the events. Most events already use this system and Jen Radwanski has offered support from TALONS to assist with card swipes. Tracking attendance with the card swipe system makes it easy to track student progress in meeting the challenge. It will also be required for events that are included on the list.
- 3.) Reflection breakfasts . Freshman students who attend at least 4 events in the fall semester will be invited to a reflection breakfast at the end of the fall semester. Students who attend a total of 6 events over the school year will also be invited to a spring semester reflection breakfast. Since this is a pilot program, we are unable to predict how many students will attend the events. In Fall 2017, just under 200 attended every event at Welcome Week and about 690 freshman attended the Freshman Convocation. For the purpose of budgeting, we will estimate that 120 students will attend the December reflection breakfast and 120 will attend the March breakfast.

#### Outcomes and Assessments:

The reflection breakfast will provide an opportunity to conduct focus group sessions with the students to understand why they participated and how they benefitted from attending the events. Student flows from the Center for Community Engagement will guide discussion sessions in small groups. Qualitative data from the focus groups can shape this program and other programming designed to engage new students. Administrators and directors will also be invited to the breakfast and can provide information to freshmen as well as gather information from the students about their experiences at Stockton in the first year.

Since we will have contact information through the ID swipe, we can recruit students to participate in a variety of assessments. To measure Stockton as a part of students' identity, we will send an online survey assessing connection to Stockton to all freshmen and compare scores of students who completed the challenge to those who did not.

Another important outcome is retention. It is hypothesized that students who complete the Pick Six Program will have higher first-year retention rates than those who do not complete the program. If this is the case, the program can be continued and targeted toward students who are at higher risk for dropout. In the pilot year, we can also run analyses to see if students in selected groups (i.e. FRST and EOF) who complete the program have higher retention rates than students in those groups who do not participate. If we see differences, then these groups of students can be targeted and incentivized to participate. Issues of selection bias (i.e. students who attend these events are already more likely to be retained already) are noted as a concern when measuring the impact on retention.

In addition to engagement and retention, we can recruit students to participate in a wide variety of other assessments related to the specific events or other university wide assessments of learning and engagement.

#### Summary of Budget Request:

The budget for this program is difficult to estimate since it is unknown how many students will be in the Fall 2018 and Fall 2019 freshman classes and difficult to predict how many would be invited to the reflection sessions. If we are making a gross underestimate, then we will celebrate a great success and find additional resources to pay for the catering. If it is an overestimate, then we will work on recruitment strategies in Year 2.

Please note that the official 2020 Proposal form does not include a budget line for the FY 2020. While one year of support for this program would be appreciated, two years is really needed to evaluate the impact on retention. As such, the budget detailed below is for both FY2019 and FY2020.

Total Budget (estimated) : \$6,224

	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020
	Jan 2017 Jun 2018	July 2018 June 2019	July 2018 June 2019
Material Expenditures			
Copies/printing	\$112 <sup>1</sup>	\$112 <sup>1</sup>	
Chartwells catering – Fall reflection		\$1,440 <sup>2</sup>	\$1,560 <sup>3</sup>
Chartwells catering – Spring reflection		\$1,440 <sup>2</sup>	\$1,560 <sup>3</sup>
Material expend. total	\$112	\$2992	\$3,120
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