

. Purpose: The Wright State University Foundation's Students First grant-making fund was established to provide a source of one-time opportunity funding to support the student experience. Grants made from this fund are designed to support innovative ideas that assist students to succeed, thrive, persist, graduate, and begin their careers.

Funding areas include programs/activities in support of student success, such as:

- Recruitment and retention initiatives
- Success initiatives
- Leadership programs
- Educational enhancement
- Workforce development activities and programs
- Community/corporate engagement
- Mentorship
- Experiential learning
- Student life and campus engagement

Initiatives that meet the following descriptions will be of high interest to the Students First Fund grants committee:

- New pilot projects
- Innovative projects
- Projects serving high numbers of students
- Projects that have the support of college/unit leadership and/or originate from sanctioned student organizations
- Expansion of current student success projects

Who can apply: Wright State University faculty, staff, or students

Restrictions: This program does not fund scholarships or individual student support. This program does not fund standard operating expenses or salaries/benefits. This program does not allow for travel expenses unless they are an integral part of the program. Funding is a one-time opportunity.

Grants in the amounts of \$1,000 - \$10,000 will be considered. Past years' grants have ranged between \$3,000 - \$8,000.

Application Deadline: Friday, February 26, 2021

Questions:

Andrea L. Wall  
Executive Assistant to President and CEO  
Assistant Secretary, WSU Foundation  
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andrea.wall@wright.edu

Please note that you need to complete and submit this form in one session; you cannot save and complete it at another time. We would suggest gathering all of your materials before completing this form, including completing the budget form in advance.

## Q1. Applicant Details

Organization

Lake Campus

Name	<input type="text"/>
Title	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>

## Q2. Applicant Role

- Faculty  
 Staff  
 Student

## Q6. Supervisor, Faculty Advisor or Staff Advisor Details

Name	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>

## Q3. Project Title

## Q5. Project Duration or Date of Event

## Q7. Executive Summary (2500 character limit including spaces)

- Describe the opportunity, challenge, or need to be addressed by the project and include factual data supporting your position
- Total number of people and a brief demographic description of the population to be served by the project
- Describe the uniqueness of your project, and how and why it does or does not collaborate with other university organizations/programs
- Describe how the project impacts student success and how you will determine or measure the success of the project
- Funding through the Student First Fund is a one-time allocation. If applicable, how is your project sustainable?

Retention has been an issue for higher education since the 1960's (Tight, 2020). According to WSU Institutional Research Effectiveness, the Lake Campus has a 67.61% retention rate in 2018, the Dayton Campus; 61.92%. Research suggests that the main reasons students drop out are due to a lack of belonging, lack of relevancy, lack of funding, feeling unwelcome (Tight, 2020; Tinto, 2016; Dwyer, 2017). Other than financial and academic reasons, the main factor suggests social isolation. In other words, it isn't enough to provide financial support and show academic relevancy, not that those aren't needed. Research is clear; students need to feel like they belong. The gap is there, and COVID hasn't helped. Students need to feel like they belong, have connections, aren't isolated. Older college students have successfully made those connections, but younger first year students do not know their colleagues, staff or faculty very well. In order to retain students at the Lake, we propose to follow the successful initiatives of other colleges, namely, to provide a first-year seminar for students to assist in their navigation through college, and to make those connections that are valuable in the retention of students. This seminar will address the student's needs toward a sense of belonging by bridging the gap between (1) students and faculty, (2) students with students, and (3) students with college policy and culture. We will have a team of six faculty, with approximately 180 students meeting 4 times/semester in groups of 30. Students will be randomized; signing up for which seminar time fits in their schedule. Seminar will include topics including but not limited to navigating; 1. Early registration 2. Work/life balance skills 3. Pilot LMS system 4. Learning communities outside of the classroom 5. Deciding the Major 6. Meeting the faculty and staff and making connections. These seminars will be presented in person, with online meeting available. This grant coincides with a pilot study on retention, in which we plan to increase our rate to 70%, and then to 75% in five years. To entice student participation, we will provide to each student who completes the seminar a \$10.00 gift card for copying purposes, which will be loaded onto their Wright One Card. This study will be conducted over two years at a cost of \$7,200, with plans to continue the study and funding through local support once the seminar has proven to be successful in student retention.

#### Q4. Estimated Funding Amount Requested

7,200.00

Q15. Please fill out the [Students First Fund budget template](#) and then upload your completed document here.

[Students First Fund Budget Template-1.docx](#)

16KB

application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document

Q16. Optional: Upload documents that help explain/describe your project (brochure, program agenda, etc.).

[THE NEED.docx](#)

15.3KB

application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document

Q17. I/we certify that all statements in this application, including all provided supplemental information, are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my/our knowledge. I/we confirm that the Supervisor, Faculty Advisor, or Staff Advisor listed in the application has reviewed and approved the submission of this application. I/we also agree that if an award is granted for this application, I/we will comply with any resulting terms of an award, including without limitation that the funds will be used for the intended purpose as stated in the application, the completion of a post-project or event report, and the displaying of a Students First Fund grant certificate.

Agree

Q18.

The applicant will receive an email confirmation and a copy of the application upon submission.

## Location Data

**Location:** ([40.557800292969, -84.625297546387](#))

**Source:** GeolIP Estimation

