

# The President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge Advancing Interfaith Cooperation and Community Service In Higher Education

The following is the planning template for the *President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge*. Campuses submitting service plans should answer the following questions within the word limits outlined below. The White House is looking forward to the creativity of institutions in designing their plans, including those that will expand and innovate upon existing programming.

Interested institutions should indicate their intent to participate in the *President's Interfaith* and *Community Service Campus Challenge* by emailing <a href="mailto:whpartnerships@who.eop.gov">who.eop.gov</a> by May 13, 2011.

Service plans should be submitted to <a href="who.eop.gov">who.eop.gov</a> by no later than June 24, 2011.

### Part I: Institutional Overview

- 1. Institution Name:
- 2. Institution City/State:
- 3. President's Name and Contact Information:
- 4. Institution's Challenge Lead Name, Title and Contact Information:

# Part II: Student Leadership & Cross-Campus Partners

- Lead Student(s) Name(s), contact information, academic concentration, graduation year, and any relevant organizational affiliation:
- 2. Please list, in as much detail as possible, partner offices or organizations that will be involved in this program. (Examples include: President's Office, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Office of Service-Learning, Office of Residential Education, the Religion Department, Chaplains, Offices of Religious Life, or the Office of Service-Learning.) Include the name of the faculty or administration member who will oversee the initiative;
- Please list, in as much detail as possible, partner student organizations that will be involved in this program. (Examples include: Muslim Students Association, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Circle K, Hindu Students Association, Secular Students Association, Student Government, etc.)

# **Part III: Advancing Interfaith Service**

All institutions are encouraged to select a national service priority or priorities to act upon during the 2011-2012 academic year. This section of the strategic plan describes a focus around a particular service component, including what events will be enacted and how the action around this component will contribute to the broader campus movement for interfaith cooperation.

L.	Select service priority(s) your campus will engage through this initiative:	
		Domestic poverty & educational opportunity
		Energy & the environment
		Health services & healthy living
		Education
		Disaster preparedness
		Veterans and military families
		Other: (Please indicate)

- 2. Why is your institution uniquely committed to address this service priority? Please explain why this service initiative is particularly relevant to your campus community. 300 words or less. (i.e. ROTC is a large percentage of campus, campus already has environmental sustainability within its strategic plan, etc.)
- 3. Please provide a brief overview of what you plan to do in your interfaith service initiative. 750 words or less.
- 4. Please describe what you hope the immediate impact of this program will be on your campus community. 300 words or less.

# Part IV: Advancing Interfaith Engagement

All institutions are encouraged to select at least one strategic interfaith engagement initiative to enact alongside the service effort for the year. The goal of these initiatives is to cultivate a campus-wide value of interfaith and inter-cultural cooperation (i.e., students, faculty and staff have positive interactions with those of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds, do not display prejudice against those of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds, etc.). These initiatives should leverage traditional institutional structures like communications efforts, education and curricula, and training to improve the campus' capacity to positively engage religious and non-religious diversity.

1.	Please select (check) at least one interfaith engagement initiative that your campus will implement in conjunction with the service initiative.		
		<b>Communications:</b> These initiatives demonstrate the institution's public commitment to interfaith cooperation on campus. Program examples include, but are not limited to, an address by your college or university President on the importance of interfaith cooperation, a web-based communications campaign on the importance of interfaith cooperation, or an interfaith cooperation session incorporated into student orientation programs and materials.	
		<b>Education:</b> These initiatives cultivate appreciative knowledge about diverse religious and non-religious identities, positively impacting attitudes and knowledge on diverse religious and non-religious identity. Program examples include, but are not limited to, courses available for students to further develop knowledge-base in interfaith cooperation and service, educational panels and lectures delivered for large audiences on campus, and first year seminars incorporating module(s) on interfaith cooperation.	
		Capacity Building: These initiatives provide students, faculty and staff with a baseline ability to positively engage religious and non-religious diversity within their own spheres of influence. Program examples include, but are not limited to, campus-wide staff training to appropriately engage religious and non-religious identity on campus, faculty professional development opportunities in the area of religious and cultural diversity, or training a core group of students to lead interfaith service events.	
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- 2. Please provide a brief overview of your interfaith engagement initiative, including why you selected this particular initiative and what you plan to do. 750 words or less.
- 3. Please describe what you hope the immediate impact of this program will be on your campus community. 300 words or less.

### Part V: Implementation, Documentation, Evaluation & Sustainability

Interfaith cooperation and community service has the potential to build social capital by bringing diverse groups together in action, strengthen social cohesion by promoting inter-religious understanding and civility, and solve social problems by acting on the shared value of service. All campuses should demonstrate that their integrated programming would create measurable impact against these goals. In addition, campuses should indicate how the implementation of this strategic plan will contribute to an ongoing commitment to advancing interfaith and community service on their campus.

- 1. Please provide a detailed and comprehensive timeline for these programs on campus. Your timeline should demonstrate how these initiatives work in tandem to move towards your stated outcomes. 750 words or less.
- 2. Please provide a plan for documenting your year-long service initiative. Please describe what kind of tools you will use to document your progress, including online tools, video, written or printed materials, etc. 500 words or less.
- 3. Please describe what evaluation method(s) your campus will utilize to indicate that this program will have a sustainable impact. Metrics should include measurement in each of the following impact areas as is appropriate per your stated interfaith engagement initiative. Resources for evaluation are available online through White House partner institutions 750 words or less:
  - Knowledge: knowledge of the positive history of religious diversity in the United States, literacy of diverse religious and philosophical traditions, etc.
  - **Service Impact:** quantitative impact (i.e., pounds of waste recycled, number of students tutored, number of meals prepared, etc.).
  - Other
- 4. Please describe how your strategic plan serves as a launching point for a deeper commitment to interfaith cooperation and community service in a sustainable way on your campus. What long-term effects (2-5 years) do you hope to see as a result of this year's programming? 500 words or less