

**College of Arts and Sciences**

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To: Joshua Powers, Associate Vice President for Student Success

From: John Murray, Dean 

Date: April 10, 2014

RE: Student Success Plans from the CAS

CC: Biff Williams, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

The Student Enrollment and Success Plans for the departments in the CAS reflect the diversity of the disciplines that reside in the college. That being said, there are central themes that emerge across departments. One theme is student connection. You will see multiple examples of how chairpersons and faculty will reach out to potential and current students as well as alums post-graduation. Connection may take place in the form of reaching out with phone calls, emails, or other means. Another theme is coordinating efforts with other units outside the college. For example, many departments propose a close relationship with University College. (The CAS has a staff member, Holly Hobaugh, who serves as the liaison to the UC). Connection with the Career Center is also a common strategy mentioned in many plans, especially in the area of post-graduation completion.

Students who major in a discipline in the Arts and Sciences often face the practical dilemma of wondering whether a degree in a humanities, liberal arts, social science, or science discipline will provide the leverage to succeed in the world. I wish to emphasize that the faculty and staff in the CAS are committed providing a strong liberal arts base in Foundational Studies as well as in disciplinary courses. This base provides skills that employers have documented as desirable in job seekers: strong critical thinking, collaboration, quantitative reasoning, writing, and analysis skills. These skills allow college graduates to adapt to the fluid demands of today's workforce. Employers want students to have these skills.

Thank you for providing the opportunity for CAS faculty to work cooperatively and collectively on this effort to help our students be successful.