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<th>Presence of International Scholars</th>
<th>Brief News and Updates</th>
<th>Innovation and Grants Work</th>
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<td>Pathway to Distinction is centrally focused on the academic mission and core of the university. Given the longstanding tradition of international education, evidenced by the recent celebration of 50 years of the Semester Abroad Europe program, it stands to reason that Goal 2 of the strategic plan: Global Education and Engagement would stand out as an element with broad campus participation. One activity, with associated measure, is the presence of visiting international scholars. Such scholars come to UWRF for short stays or semester long residencies. Often, they select UWRF because of the university’s program array and institutional strengths. A few come through the university’s inter-institutional partnerships. In any case there has been a tremendous increase in their presence on campus. In the case of the College of Arts and Sciences, the departments in the college have already hosted nearly as many scholars as visited during the 2012-13 academic year and they come from Europe, Asia, and Latin America. The activity is also present in other colleges. For example, the College of Business and Economics is hosting two Chinese scholars and the College of Education and Professional Studies will also have visitors, principally through their partnership with Zhejiang International Studies University. Finally, the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Science and its programs have been at the forefront of interest through the Brazilian government’s Science Mobility Program and has generated considerable interest among Chinese universities, including a delegation from industry and higher education from Ulan Bator (Inner Mongolia) in 2012.</td>
<td><strong>Deadlines for Submitting Initiative proposals</strong> Please note that the deadline for submitting proposals to division heads is November 1. The proposal template is available on the strategic plan website (<a href="http://www.uwrf.edu/PathwayToDistinction/Initiatives/">http://www.uwrf.edu/PathwayToDistinction/Initiatives/</a>) <strong>Year of . . . Initiative</strong> The Year of Germany initiative has created a swirl of activity on campus and while the Strategic Plan Progress Committee encourages all faculty, staff, and students to attend events we would also like to remind the campus community that we will begin to ramp up the Year of China committee and activities for 2014-2015. Given our long-standing programmatic and institutional ties in China and our growing relationships across all four colleges the Year of China could prove to be full of intellectual, social, and cultural events. <strong>Metrics and Updates</strong> Once again we ask that faculty/staff leads of initiatives should be reporting progress on a regular basis to the SPPC and the SPPC welcomes regular information that can be translated into our metrics. As with the September newsletter, we continue to ask department chairs to submit information about undergraduate students who presented work off-campus to peer or public groups as one measure of our engagement and success in URSCA. Please contact Elizabeth Jordahl at x3902 in the URSCA Office for more information. <strong>November Update Preview</strong> The SPPC anticipates providing a brief update on the initiative process as it stands at the end of November and potentially highlighting the status of the Idea and Innovation Incubator activities for Fall 2013. The update will also include an update on the progress related to the university’s capital campaign, Rising to Distinction, as it is also part of the metrics and an ongoing initiative that was launched in year one of Pathway to Distinction.</td>
<td>Goal three of the strategic plan: Innovation and Partnerships—connects directly with state of Wisconsin and the UW Board of Regents’ renewed focus on the university’s role in economic development. A number of activities, broadly collected under the heading of innovation and partnerships, have been occurring over the past several years. Some, like our international arrangements and agreements, cut across both Goal 2 and Goal 3. Other activities, such as the university’s request for UW System grant dollars to support the Center for Innovation and Business Development clearly target our colleges’ ability to participate and even catalyze regional economic development; in this case through CBE and CAFES. Still, as the university reviews progress on the metrics associated with the goal 3 of Pathway to Distinction, the submission of and acquisition of grants stands out as singularly related to the academic core of the university. On this front there has been a series of very positive events, including the NSF-STEP grant to support student success in STEM disciplines; a second NSF grant to support teaching and learning physics concepts and their applications; and a USDA grant to support research on beef cattle. These and other grant activities suggest that the university will meet and possibly exceed our targets for grants submitted and dollars received. In this highly competitive environment, where federal dollars are particularly difficult to get, UWRF faculty and academic staff should be applauded for their efforts.</td>
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**UPDATES**

Pathway to Distinction 2012-2017 Strategic Plan

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**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN River Falls**