1. Proposed initiative: (limited to 500 characters or less)

Insert your answer below each question

We will enrich the scope of the university's international agenda by enhancing education in international development through the creation of a UWRF Center for International Development. We will advance knowledge and interest in the development of Asia, Africa, and Latin America through collaboration and support of research, teaching, and other educational endeavors. We will begin with our existing core of faculty, and expand our numbers through directed social events where like-minded faculty and staff are invited to learn about each other and our potential to collaborate on common themes.

2. Person, administrative department, or college proposing the initiative:

Dr. Jackie Brux, Founder and Consultant to UWRF-AID and Professor of Economics; and Dr. Paige Miller, Director of UWRF-AID and Professor of Sociology; submitted through the College of Arts and Sciences.

3. Which strategic goal does this initiative support?

Global Education and Engagement.

4. Describe how the initiative supports the goal(s). (limited to 1000 characters or less)

International activity on many campuses focuses primarily on international coursework, study abroad, and "modern" language education. However, many of these campuses ignore the nearly four-fifths of the world's population that lives in the developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Becoming a truly global campus entails a broader scope to include regions outside of the traditional core. Our initiative supports the goal of global education and engagement by creating a Center that is truly global in focus.

The UWRF Association for International Development has sought to initiate and/or support a large number of campus-wide programs involved with the developing world, including a video and discussion series, an annual World Food Day program, study abroad programs in developing countries (including "heritage-seeking" programs supported by national student grants), participation in International Education Week, a "development" option and regional studies options within the International Studies...
Major, campus presentations on international development, and an annual workshop on International Development. The Center will work to support and expand these efforts in the following ways:

First, the Center will work with the newly formed student group that was established within the last two years to ensure the initiative maintains an active student involvement.

Second, once our campus and community presence is soundly established, we will expand our collaboration to the broader Twin City and UW-System educational institutions. We envision a list-serve connecting interested faculty and staff that will mutually inform all members of common research interests, programs, conferences, grants, and so on.

Finally, we will establish a regular conference that will bring together researchers and activists in the field, and to publish a “proceedings” on presented research.

5. Based on the definition of university-wide Initiative [initiative that spans across colleges, units, and departments], indicate how the proposed initiative has a university-wide impact: (limited to 1000 characters or less)

The activities listed above all pertain to university-wide events and beyond. We have always drawn our faculty from all of the colleges on campus. In fact, it is the university-wide nature of our organization that provides us with the unique opportunity for becoming a regional leader in the area of economic development. UWRF includes a College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Science (recognizing that agricultural development is a key area for developing countries, and that our agricultural colleagues have much experience as consultants and field workers in development); a College of Business and Economics of which at least half of the faculty are from developing countries or work to improve conditions in developing countries; a College of Arts & Science that includes key areas in development; and an International Studies Major with a development option and regional studies options in Asia and Latin America.

6. Please provide a set of benchmarks and / or indicators of success to support your initiative. (limited to 1000 characters or less)

First, we will expand our core numbers by bringing together current and new members in the form of gatherings that include an annual workshop, but also directed but informal social events.

Second, we will contact members of Student-AID and hold a meeting to determine mutual activities and ways we can assist each other. Our target timing is February 2013.

Third, we will continue sponsoring the video series with two videos, along with faculty and student discussants, planned for Spring 2013. Our goal is an audience ranging from 50-70 people.

Fourth, we will sponsor a World Food Program in Oct. 2013. Our targeted audience is 80 members.

Fifth, we will create greater curricular support for the International Studies Major, and specifically for the development option and regional studies in Asia and Latin America options. Possibly expand course offerings on Africa (by one or two) and establish an African regional studies option. Expand the number of students in these options (and the major as a whole) by 20%.

Sixth, we will establish a list-serve that includes the Twin Cities metro and UW-System educational institutions.
Seventh, we will establish a regular conference that brings together researchers and activists in the field, and to publish a “proceedings” on the presented research.

7. Indicate, to the best of your consideration, which of the foundational elements mentioned below will the initiative engage. You will have opportunity to elaborate on each element on the next page. (Please indicate YES or NO each of the foundational elements.)
   Sustainability: YES
   Inclusiveness: YES
   Human Capital: YES
   Technology: NO
   Facilities: NO
   Finance: YES
   Other: NO

8. SUSTAINABILITY: Indicate how SUSTAINABILITY would be affected by the initiative. If SUSTAINABILITY is not affected by the initiative, please describe why not. (limited to 1000 characters or less)

In terms of sustainability, even a small number of enthusiastic faculty members can accomplish a lot. Similarly, we’ve always believed that more can be done by a group of enthusiastic and dedicated faculty members who collaborate to determine what WE WOULD LOVE to do, as opposed to a committee or group of administrators that collaborates to determine what they think OTHER FACULTY MEMBERS SHOULD DO. UWRF-AID has always been a faculty-led and faculty-driven group and that is what has and will continue to sustain us.

9. INCLUSIVENESS: Indicate how INCLUSIVENESS would be affected by the initiative. If INCLUSIVENESS is not affected by the initiative, please describe why not. (limited to 1000 characters or less)

The inclusive nature of our group is natural, and goes beyond our membership from all colleges. We have international faculty, staff, and associates, many of whom are from developing countries, who act as members, presenters, and discussants, thereby serving as an important source of information for our students. They also serve as role models for students from similar regions. As such, our members and associates are particularly diverse in race, ethnicity, religion, and nationality, as well as gender. Additionally, the students of Student-AID were self-selected. One student is a female Caucasian, one young man is from Somalia, and one is from Ethiopia. While these students leave and others have already begun to replace them, it is nevertheless clear that diverse students are interested in the group. Finally we have tried to increase the participation of minority students in study abroad programs in developing countries, including their participation in "heritage-seeking" programs, with the use of Race and Ethnicity grants.

10. HUMAN CAPITAL: Indicate how HUMAN CAPITAL would be affected by the initiative. If HUMAN CAPITAL is not affected by the initiative, please describe why not. (limited to 1000 characters or less)
The group is seriously impaired by limited university support in the form of reassigned time for the director and perhaps a co-director of AID. We can continue with a small number of activities, but the strain and burnout of the directors will definitely limit what we can achieve.

11. TECHNOLOGY: Indicate how TECHNOLOGY would be affected by the initiative. If TECHNOLOGY is not affected by the initiative, please describe why not. (limited to 1000 characters or less)

There will not be a need for any major technological improvements or purchases. Existing technology will be more than sufficient.

12. FACILITIES: Indicate how FACILITIES would be affected by the initiative. If FACILITIES is not affected by the initiative, please describe why not. (limited to 500 characters or less)

We have EXCELLENT facilities. We have usually used the Alumni Room for our Annual Workshops, and we've used the spacious and attractive Global Connections area for other activities. Now we also are able to use the Kao house, which provides a beautiful environment for our social activities that serve to enhance the cohesiveness of our group.

13. FINANCE: Indicate how FINANCE would be affected by the initiative. If FINANCE is not affected by the initiative, please describe why not. (limited to 1000 characters or less)

Other than reassigned time for a director and possibly a co-director, we do have financial need to cover the costs of mailings, posters, use of the Kinni Theater, letterhead paper, video purchases, etc. These have always been funded by the Faculty Development Board through the Institutional Enhancement Grant, as well as other grants. The problem is, of course, that there is no guarantee that we will continue to have these funding sources and a more permanent source of funding would be more reliable. Also, we can do a lot with very little money, though it would preclude expensive items such a video purchases and community mailings. (We have enough experience to know which expenditures are most cost-effective and which ones are not.) Finally, we do have an account with the Foundation, so at some point, this can be an avenue for funding. [Also note that finances might improve if our director would have time to write various grants, including the Ciber Grant (internationalizing business schools) and the Race and Ethnicity Grant (encouraging study abroad my minority students.)]

We have the strong dedicated core of self-driven faculty and associates. What we need is the minimal resources to facilitate them.