UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

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OBJECTIVE OF THIS PRESENTATION:

- INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A CAMPUS-WIDE CONVERSATION ABOUT AND EXPLORATION OF THE POSSIBILITY TO TRANSITION TO AN HONORS COLLEGE.

- INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN OPEN FORA TO DEVELOP MATERIALS FOR REVIEW.
THE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM:

- OUR UNIVERSITY HAS A MATURE HONORS PROGRAM, WHICH JUST TURNED 35 YEARS.

- THE PROGRAM HAS “THREE ARMS”: A CURRICULUM, A LIVING-AND-LEARNING COMMUNITY, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACADEMIC, CULTURAL, AND SOCIAL ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES.
NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL (NCHC):

- Our honors program meets 15 out of the 17 NCHC criteria of a “fully developed honors program” (see handouts).
- We do not meet the criteria that the program director directly reports to the chief academic officer and that the honors program space is “suitable and prominent.”
2013 NCHC REPORT ENTITLED “HONORS COLLEGES VS HONORS PROGRAMS” FOUND THAT AN HONORS COLLEGE OFFERS SMALLER, LESS SELECTIVE INSTITUTIONS MORE ADDED VALUE THAN AN HONORS PROGRAM (HTTP://PUBLICUNIVERSITYHONORS.COM/2013/07/03/HONORS-COLLEGES-VS-HONORS-PROGRAMS-NCHC-SURVEY-OF-SMALLER-INSTITUTIONS/).
THE NCHC REPORT FOUND THAT INSTITUTIONS WITH HONORS COLLEGES HAVE STRONGER HONORS COMPONENTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE "EXTREMELY IMPORTANT" CATEGORIES SIZE, STAFF, ADVISING, PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS HOUSING, LIVING/LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES, CURRICULUM, INTERNSHIPS.
NCHC found that stronger honors components attract a larger number of high achieving students to an institution, which elevates the institution’s GPA and test scores, increases its graduation and retention rates, and improves student placement and the school’s reputation (i.e. higher added value for an institution through an honors college).
OPPORTUNITY:

- OUR HONORS PROGRAM ALREADY MEETS 9 OUT OF 13 NCHC HONORS COLLEGE CRITERIA (SEE HANDOUTS).

- WE DO NOT MEET 3 CRITERIA IN THE AREA OF ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE, AND 1 IN THE AREA OF CURRICULUM.
THIS QUALITY OF OUR HONORS PROGRAM IS GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO CONVEY AND/OR MARKET TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES, WHO ARE VISITING OTHER UNIVERSITIES WITH AN “HONORS COLLEGE.”

OUT OF 12 NORTHWEST INSTITUTIONS, 4 HAVE HONORS PROGRAMS AND 8 HAVE HONORS COLLEGES, INCLUDING BOISE STATE AND WSU (SEE HANDOUT).
FOUR TO FIVE MONTHS AGO, IN APRIL 2018, PHIL FRANA, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE HONORS COLLEGE AT JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY, WROTE AN EMAIL TO ADMINISTRATIVE COLLEAGUES PROCLAIMING THAT “[A]T LEAST TWENTY-THREE AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES ANNOUNCED OR LAUNCHED HONORS COLLEGES IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS” (PERSONAL COMMUNICATION).
A LARGER CAMPUS CONVERSATION:

- We hired a consultant in spring of 2018 to assist us with organizing a larger campus conversation about honors education at the University of Idaho.

- This includes three reports to be delivered to our consultant and a campus visit with senior administrators and stakeholders later this year.
REPORTS NUMBER ONE AND NUMBER TWO SUMMARIZE WHERE WE STAND REGARDING THE NCHC CRITERIA OF AN HONORS PROGRAM AND AN HONORS COLLEGE.

REPORT NUMBER THREE WILL SUMMARIZE OUR LARGER CAMPUS COMMUNITY’S INPUT IN TERMS OF BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF POSSIBLY TRANSITIONING TO AN HONORS COLLEGE.
OPEN FORA WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 24 AND 25 AND ANNOUNCED IN THE DAILY REGISTER.

POSSIBLE DRAFT QUESTIONS FOR A QUALTRICS SURVEY INCLUDE:
1. HOW WOULD AN HONORS COLLEGE CONTRIBUTE TO RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION?

2. HOW WOULD AN HONORS COLLEGE HELP WITH UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

3. HOW WOULD AN HONORS COLLEGE HELP STUDENT PLACEMENT IN GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS?
4. HOW WOULD AN HONORS COLLEGE HELP INCREASE SUCCESS WITH DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER AWARDS?

5. HOW WOULD AN HONORS COLLEGE HELP SHAPE FACULTY EXPERIENCE AND OPPORTUNITY AT U OF I?

6. HOW WOULD AN HONORS COLLEGE SERVE OUR INSTITUTION’S STRATEGIC GOALS AND LAND-GRANT MISSION?
7. WHAT DOES A UNIVERSITY-WIDE HONORS COLLEGE AT THE U OF I MEAN TO YOU?

8. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU SEE IN TRANSITIONING TO AN HONORS COLLEGE?
IN CLOSING: COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK ARE WELCOME AND REQUESTED! PLEASE EMAIL ME AT SREINEKE@UIDAHO.EDU OR HONORS@UIDAHO.EDU.

PLEASE INVITE EVERYONE IN YOUR UNITS TO COME TO THE OPEN FORA.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME TODAY!