

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

University of Houston QEP Title: Cougar Initiative to Engage (CITE)

Institution: University of Houston

Contact Person: Dr. Anne Dayton, Director, CITE, adayton@Central.UH.EDU

Recognizing the need to not only academically train to students for the workforce, but also to shape students as engaged, reflective, and visionary citizens, the University of Houston has embarked on the Cougar Initiative to Engage (CITE) to identify and create a wide range of co-curricular opportunities and career supports for students. CITE aligns with the university's mission of learning, discovery, and engagement and promises to have an outsized influence in the community and the region.

UH envisions a range of high-impact projects from smaller-scale, shorter-term activities and larger-scale programs of greater scope and duration. The university has developed a generous system of grants to enhance existing programs and establish new experiential projects that complement the academic training students receive. CITE will also facilitate internal and external partnerships and professional development opportunities for faculty and staff.

This framework will enable CITE to meet five overarching goals: 1) to improve the skills of UH students in competencies essential to success in their lives and careers, 2) to increase the number of high-impact co-curricular activities at UH, 3) to increase the number of UH students participating in a co-curricular activity as part of their undergraduate education, 4) to improve students' perception that their college education prepared them for their lives and careers after graduation, and 5) to improve the perception among businesses, community organizations, and other student sponsors that UH graduates are well equipped to meet the needs of the workforce and engage the world as responsible citizens.

The student learning outcomes for the program reflect this effort to engage students in activities that will translate to "real-world" success. These learning outcomes include:

- Problem-solving
- Effective communication
- Teamwork
- Cultural competency
- Social responsibility
- Ethical decision-making

Through a system of direct and indirect measures, the Cougar Initiative to Engage intends to demonstrate, through triangulated assessment, that the incorporation of several new projects into the campus culture will have positive ripple effects throughout the UH community and the community at large.