

Final Annual Report

Tennessee Tech University

President

Research and Economic Development

Water Resources Center



Center for the Management, Utilization and Protection of Water Resources **Department/Unit Contact:** Bharat Soni, Amy Hill

Mission/Vision/Goal Statement

Mission The Center was created to mobilize an interdisciplinary team of professionals to address the increasing demands on water resources in Tennessee, the surrounding region, and the nation. This mission is accomplished through research, education and public service.

Vision The vision of the Center is to enhance environmental education through research.

General Goals of the Center The goals of the Center are to enhance research by addressing diverse water-related problems in Tennessee, the nation and the world; to enhance educational opportunities through research, university instruction and educational outreach; and to enhance citizens' quality of life by providing technical assistance and technology transfer to peers, citizens and industry.



Goal 1

Define Goal

Increase recognition of the Center and its faculty through invited presentations, refereed publications, and other promotion initiatives. Produce a minimum of two refereed publications per year and present a minimum of four professional regional, national or international meetings per year.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives

Objective 1.1. Make one invited speaking engagement per year.

Relationship to University Flight Plan Focus Area

Create Distinctive Programs and Invigorate Faculty

Action Plan: Through refereed publications, continued external funding, focused research, and participation in professional organizations, faculty obtain state, regional and national recognition.

 Goal 2**Define Goal**

Increase externally funded research.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives

Objective 2.1. Increase externally funded research, which addresses the diverse water-related problems in Tennessee, the nation and the world.

Toward this goal, the Center strives to increase external funding to \$3 (including indirect costs) per dollar of state appropriation.

Relationship to University Flight Plan Focus Areas

Create Distinctive Programs and Invigorate Faculty

Action Plan: Strategic focus areas have been established by Center faculty and faculty associates. Center funds are being invested in selected high-return, research focus areas. The Center annually supports faculty who seek external research funds by: reviewing proposals prior to their being sent off campus; providing travel funds to support PIs meeting with agency program directors to discuss research opportunities; keeping faculty informed about research opportunities; acting as a catalyst to bring faculty together to develop interdisciplinary research proposals; and providing essential matching funds. The Center is working with the university administration to keep Tennessee's Congressional delegation informed about research findings and new emerging areas of research.

Objective 2.2. Enhance the recognition of faculty members' contribution to science and engineering. In addition to a minimum of two refereed publications per year, faculty will present their research at a minimum of four professional regional, national or international meetings per year.

Relationship to University Flight Plan Focus Areas

Create Distinctive Programs and Invigorate Faculty

Action Plan: The Center maintains an editorial staff that prepares articles and information regarding researchers' activities and findings for targeted audiences such as the general public, decision makers, funding sources, colleagues, etc. The editor also assists faculty in manuscript preparation, and professional poster and oral presentations. Graduate student theses and dissertations are prepared as a compilation of professional articles to expedite the submittal of manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals.

 Goal 3**Define Goal**

Increase the graduate student stipend levels.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives

Relationship to University Flight Plan Focus Areas

Create Distinctive Programs and Invigorate Faculty

Action Plan: Currently, the Center combines its resources with external funding to support graduate students at the level of \$1,200 per month for master's students. Doctoral students receive \$1,500 per month. The Center will continue to work with academic units and faculty to increase stipends to competitive levels within the Southeast.



Assessment: Collaborating with Stakeholders

Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Goal 1 and Goal 3

Type of Tool: Other

Rationale

Every five years, the Center managing director collaborates with stakeholders (predominantly from Biology and Engineering) to assess graduate student stipends. Based on mutual agreement, stipends are then increased accordingly.

Over the past several years, the graduate student stipend levels have gradually increased. In the 2006-2007 fiscal year, stipends were \$1,000 per month for engineering, biology and chemistry master's students and \$1,200 per month for Ph.D. students.

Faculty are requested to obtain a greater percentage of the graduate student support through external funding, and seek graduate student funding through fellowships and private endowments. The Center is continuing its efforts to increase private donations for graduate student support.

Frequency of Assessment: Every Five Years



Assessment: External Funds

Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Goal 2, Objective 2.1

Type of Tool: Other

Rationale

The Center annually assesses the external funds received during the state's fiscal year. The Center conducts trend analyses to determine progress toward achieving goals and asserts correction action when needed.

Frequency of Assessment: Annually



Assessment: Faculty Evaluations

Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Goal 1, Objective 1.1

Type of Tool: Other

Rationale

Annual faculty achievement reports contain information on scholarly works. This information is compiled and analyzed annually.

Frequency of Assessment: Annually

**Results: External Funds****Goal/Objective/Outcome Number:** Goal 2**Results**

This year the Center earned approximately \$1.2 million in externally funded research.

Attachments

No items to display.

**Results: Faculty Evaluations****Goal/Objective/Outcome Number:** Goals 1 and 2**Results**

The last fiscal year, the Center produced six total refereed publications and 23 total presentations.

Attachments

No items to display.

**Assessment Plan Improvement****Improvements to Assessment Plan**

At this time, there are no proposed improvements to the assessment plan.