**Improving Online Degree Programs and Services**

The purpose of ASU Online is to provide quality online courses and programs; while focusing on the strategic plan of Albany State University is to increase enrollment, retention, and graduation. It is critical to our department to maintain support for our online students’ success. With online enrollment increasing by 10 % from Fall 2014, we must increase support and resources available to students. Resources and processes that should be implemented include student orientation, online advising, and student verification during online assessments.

One of the Albany State University’s Strategic Plan goals is to create an environment that nurtures academically focused learners from diverse backgrounds. To achieve this goal, the institution must solidify the online technology infrastructure as well as foster success of online learners. This activity will enhance student learning at our institution by providing an infrastructure that allows for collaborations between students and faculty in both on-site and an online environment. Additionally, by enhancing technological capabilities, administrative support for student learning can be expanded beyond the reach of our current physical space limitations.

**Strengthening Foreign Language and International Education Programs**

Understanding the cultural frame that people come from is paramount in creating an educated and inclusive society. The Foreign Language Institute has been designed for that purpose. Globally, colleges and universities especially have stressed the need for creating, sustaining, and expanding global initiatives. With regards to Albany State University, the first goal of its 2012-2017 strategic plan goes as follows: Goal 1: Creating an environment that nurtures academically focused learners from diverse backgrounds. Hence, the Foreign Language Institute will increase the level of international awareness by involving the university and community in cultural events, education, and engagement through a variety of courses, lectures, panels, recruitment, and activities. Furthermore, the Foreign Language Institute and International Education Programs will engage in a variety of events that promote cultural literacy, foreign language study, and community engagement. With exposure to these programs, Albany State University will have increased opportunities for internships and to learn about global economics, national security, and diversity training. . This project will also assist the University to enhance the quality of teaching and learning needed to increase recruitment, retention of students, and graduation rate.

**Enhancing Experiential Learning in Early Childhood Teacher Education**

Through this activity, the Albany State University (ASU) Early Learning Center will provide ASU undergraduate students the following:

1. The opportunity to work and be mentored by professional staff before they enter their professional pre-service requirements.
2. Enable faculty and students to conduct research in the area of early childhood behavior and development.
3. The opportunity for ASU students to work with early learners while enhancing the ASU student’s development of coordination, planning and supervisory skills.
4. The opportunity for ASU students to present workshops/seminar on relevant topics that will enhance the skills of the ELC parents.

Inclusion in this activity is open to all academic units of the University and participating undergraduates will benefit from these experiences. The aim is to produce successful practitioners in their respective fields.