

# Executive Summary

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## Highlights

The Capstone Scholars Program enrolled over 1,300 1st-year Capstone Scholars in Fall 18, its largest cohort ever. This year's class was nearly 18% larger than the prior year. This brings the total enrollment of the Capstone Scholars Program to nearly 2,300 1st and 2nd year students.

According to our internal tracking processes, the average cumulative USC GPA of all Capstone Scholars ending the Fall 18 semester was a 3.6 with 93% of all Capstone Scholars ending the Fall 18 semester with above a 3.0GPA.

We had 1,896 touch points with Capstone Scholars in the Fall 18 semester. Capstone Scholars are engaging in undergraduate research, studying abroad, involved in leadership and are being recognized for their academic and campus involvement.

## Mission Statement

The Capstone Scholars Program attracts high-ability students to the University of South Carolina and serves them through a community that provides targeted educational and leadership opportunities within and beyond the classroom.

Updated: 02/01/2019

## Vision Statement

All Capstone Scholars will be globally aware, locally active, lifelong learners and leaders.

Updated: 02/01/2019

## Values

We aim to provide an environment that will give high-ability students the opportunity to be successful within and beyond the classroom. We value learning, self-authorship, service, discovery, personal integrity, teamwork, leadership, self-efficacy, and community.

Updated: 12/31/2069

# Blueprint for Academic Excellence

## Capstone

### AY2019-2020

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# Goals - Looking Back

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Goals for the Capstone for the previous Academic Year.

## Goal 1 - Living and Learning Experience

<b>Goal Statement</b>	Enhance resident students' living and learning experience by encouraging interactions and connections with Faculty Principals.
<b>Linkage to University Goal</b>	•Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities
<b>Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values</b>	Our mission is to enroll high-ability students to the University and serve them through a community that provides targeted educational and leadership opportunities within and beyond the classroom. We want all Capstone Scholars to be globally aware, locally active, and life long learners and leaders. This goal aligns with our mission in providing an environment in which students connect to the Faculty Principal and the University of Housing LLC staff through events and one-on-one meetings.
<b>Status</b>	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
<b>Action Plan</b>	<p>Utilized EAB Pathfinder to create one-on-one student meetings with Faculty Principal in addition to the Capstone Scholars' staff one-on-one Capstone Consultation meetings.</p> <p>Faculty Principal led service-learning study abroad program over spring break</p> <p>Social events outside of the LLC offerings to allow students to meet with faculty principal and partner offices.</p>

<p><b>Achievements</b></p>	<p>Capstone Scholars Program held 3,206 scheduled 1:1 appointments during the 17/18 academic year. Of the 584 student survey respondents, 94.34% were satisfied or very satisfied with their 1:1 Capstone Consultation.</p> <p>Faculty Principal visited 45 sections of Capstone Scholars University 101 sections totally just over 775 interactions with Capstone Scholars. Individual meetings with Faculty Principal during Fall 17 alone was 136 interactions with Capstone Scholars.</p> <p>30 Capstone Scholars were selected for the 2018 spring break service-learning program to Nicaragua led by the Faculty Principal.</p> <p>83:87% of Capstone LLC students indicated their interactions with the faculty principal positively contributed to their overall experience living on campus.</p>
<p><b>Resources Utilized</b></p>	<p>Approximately \$250,000 was spent on personnel (5 FTE's – Associate Principal, 4 Assistant Principals, one Graduate Assistant, Undergraduate Assistants) and Faculty Principal</p> <p>Approximately \$80,000 was spent on supplies and programming.</p>
<p><b>Goal Continuation</b></p>	<p>All current programming related to this goal will continue.</p> <p>Increasing enrollment will be a factor in adjusting methodology and timing of one-on-one meetings.</p> <p>"Make up" Capstone Consultation requirement will utilize select campus partners (Office of Undergraduate Research, Study Abroad, Career Center, Student Success Center, etc.) to encourage students to broaden outreach beyond the Capstone Scholars Program. This plan will continue into next year specifically for the Spring semester Capstone Consultation requirement for 2nd year students.</p>

<p><b>Goal Upcoming Plans</b></p>	<p>Created a new "Capstone Scholars Faculty Principal" appointment in EAB Pathfinder for students to directly schedule appointments with Faculty Principal.</p> <p>Capstone Consultations with Capstone Scholars staff through EAB Pathfinder with Capstone Scholar students will continue. Due to enrollment increase, partnership with University 101 is planned for Fall 18 is related to the Capstone Consultation requirement for 1st year students.</p> <p>The Faculty Principal will visit all 55 sections of Capstone Scholars University 101 sections to introduce himself and the accompanying Capstone Scholars staff member to present on the Capstone Scholars Program, benefits, requirements and allow the Faculty Principal to personally greet each student. We will partner with University 101 to have this presentation scheduled through ScheduleCenter for University 101 instructors to easily arrange this presentation.</p> <p>Spring break program in 18/19 year led by Faculty Principal will run this year to Costa Rica</p>
<p><b>Resources Needed</b></p>	<p>Able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities was between \$800,000-\$900,000 for fiscal year 17/18</p>
<p><b>Goal Notes</b></p>	<p>Growth in enrollment continues to be both a challenge as well as an opportunity. Increase in staff size has been needed to accommodate the needs of our students while the increase in population has allowed us to have a healthy budget. Use of EAB platform was helpful in establishing faculty principal/student meetings. Satisfaction rate for all meetings between faculty/staff and students remains consistently high.</p>

## Goal 2 - Enhancing Education

<b>Goal Statement</b>	Provide supportive living and learning environments that promote academic attainment of resident students.
<b>Linkage to University Goal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>•Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> <li>•Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
<b>Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values</b>	Our mission is to enroll high-ability students to the University and serve them through a community that provides targeted educational and leadership opportunities within and beyond the classroom. We want all Capstone Scholars to be academically successful and retain the scholarships they were awarded as incoming freshman. Additionally, for students to get involved in study abroad, research, and more, students must be academically successful in the classroom to qualify for a variety of experiences that we also promote. With many of our students being non-SC residents, it's important that our students maintain scholarships in order to help with retention to the 2nd and 3rd year.
<b>Status</b>	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
<b>Action Plan</b>	<p>All Capstone Scholars are required to take a Capstone Scholars section of University 101</p> <p>Capstone Scholars specific sections of English 101 and 102</p> <p>Academic requirement for all Capstone Scholars is to maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA each semester.</p> <p>Partner with Student Success Center to create new "Success Consultations" for students with a GPA between 2.0-3.0.</p> <p>Adulting workshops geared towards life skills as well as habits of success such as Time Management</p>

<p><b>Achievements</b></p>	<p>Enrolled 1,104 1st year Capstone Scholars with an average SAT of 1358 and average ACT of 29.7</p> <p>Total enrollment of the Capstone Scholars Program is 1,946 1st and 2nd year students</p> <p>According to our internal tracking, we had a 91.94% retention rate from Spring 17 to Fall 17 semester. If you include students who returned to the University but left the Capstone Scholars Program, it is 93.77%.</p> <p>Average GPA for all Capstone Scholars in 17/18 was a 3.6, with 92% of all Capstone Scholars finishing with over a 3.0GPA</p> <p>Provided 45 sections of Capstone Scholars University 101 courses and 14 Capstone Scholars English 101/102 courses with special themes</p> <p>Newly created Adulting Workshops in the Spring 18 semester saw 5 events attract 46 students</p> <p>57 students attended a required SSC Success Consultation. Of those who attended, their % change in GPA was .13% higher than non-participants from Fall 17-Spring 18, and average GPA at the end of Spring 18 of those attended was .33 higher than non participants</p>
<p><b>Resources Utilized</b></p>	<p>Approximately \$8,000 was spent on partnership with First-Year English Programs and maymester programs</p>
<p><b>Goal Continuation</b></p>	<p>Due to the nature of our high-ability students, this goal continues for the foreseeable future in order to retain students, help students retain their scholarships, and promote an environment which will allow students to be successful in the classroom.</p>
<p><b>Goal Upcoming Plans</b></p>	<p>Beginning in Spring 18 we partnered with the Student Success Center to create "Success Consultations" for our students who fall below a 3.0 GPA in order to help students retain their scholarships. This program will continue into the new year</p> <p>Partnership with First Year English Programs and University 101 will continue</p> <p>Number of Capstone Scholars sections of University 101 will increase to accommodate increasing enrollment of Capstone Scholars Program</p> <p>Capstone Scholars academic requirement will remain in effect</p> <p>Adulting Workshops will continue into the next year</p>

<b>Resources Needed</b>	Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities was between \$800,000-\$900,000 for fiscal year 17/18
<b>Goal Notes</b>	Majority of our students took a Capstone Scholars section of University 101 but growth in enrollment remains a challenge when needing to provide an adequate number of sections. Have had to be flexible with allowing students to take a University 101 section if they are part of another learning community. Continuing to work with the College of Engineering and Computing to develop dedicated first-year courses for Capstone Scholars engineering majors. Regarding study abroad, we have established a goal to provide two concurrent programs, one being service-learning based and the other being a "off the beaten path" destination. Partnered with the College of Education for our two Maymester programs. One was canceled due to civil unrest.

**Goal 3 - Connecting Students to Promote Community**

<b>Goal Statement</b>	Connect resident students to USC opportunities and activities both as part of the living and learning community and outside of the community to cultivate a sense of belonging with the University
<b>Linkage to University Goal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>•Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>•Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> <li>•Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
<b>Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values</b>	Our mission is to enroll high-ability students to the University and serve them through a community that provides targeted educational and leadership opportunities within and beyond the classroom. We want all Capstone Scholars to be globally aware, locally active, and life long learners and leaders. This goal aligns with our mission in providing a variety of beyond the classroom experiences, both academically and socially, that will promote opportunity and belonging.
<b>Status</b>	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
<b>Action Plan</b>	Developed a new student-led Service Team that will provide service experiences for Capstone Scholars, seek out partnerships with Capstone House to co-sponsor select events on top of what the Capstone Scholars Program already provides through the Programming Council, student-led Programming Council will create events designed to introduce our primarily out-of-state population with opportunities to connect with the Columbia area.

<b>Achievements</b>	<p>Adoption of Pathfinder in Fall 17 allowed us to serve 1,686 students through Capstone Consultations with 1,822 total individual touch points with students in our office. Survey respondents indicating a 98.9% satisfaction rate.</p> <p>86.08% of Capstone Scholars living in the Capstone Scholars Community report that they feel like they belong in their living and learning community with 88.03% stating the community provided them with an opportunity to make close friends.</p> <p>Total event attendance for the year from 83 Capstone Scholars events was 2,913 students including: Welcome Week (538 students), First Hot Cookie Friday (170), Haunted House partnership w/Housing (103), Savannah Service Day Trip partnership w/Housing (49)</p> <p>Created a new Service Team beginning this academic year providing 148 Capstone Scholars opportunities to provide 511 hours of service to the Columbia community.</p> <p>Explore Columbia Events designed to connect Capstone Scholars to the Columbia community planned 5-6 events each semester</p>
<b>Resources Utilized</b>	Approximately \$80,000 spent on all supplies, facilities, programming, rentals.
<b>Goal Continuation</b>	Connecting students to opportunities outside of the Capstone Scholars community is an important aspect of our program (a majority of our students live outside the LLC) so specialized programming aimed to bring students together across multiple living environments will continue to be a priority on an on-going basis.
<b>Goal Upcoming Plans</b>	Will continue all current level of programming and partnerships with University Housing, utilizing EAB Pathfinder for one-on-one student meetings, Service Team will look to expand service offerings both on and off campus, including day-long service trips to Greenville/Charleston areas, and the Programming Council will continue to offer programs connecting students to opportunities in the Columbia area to promote a sense of belonging.

<b>Resources Needed</b>	Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities was between \$800,000-\$900,000 for fiscal year 17/18
<b>Goal Notes</b>	<p>Freshmen that were mentored through the Capstone Connectors experience are 36% more likely to complete all of their semester requirements compared to their non-mentored peers. The jump is even bigger in the Spring semester with 45% difference (Spring 2018)</p> <p>Sophomores serving as Capstone Connector mentors are 47% more likely on average to complete all of their semester requirements compared to their non-mentored peers</p>

#### Goal 4 - High-Ability Student Achievement

<b>Goal Statement</b>	Work with high-ability students predicted to excel in the classroom and enable them to reach their full high-performing potential in and beyond the classroom
<b>Linkage to University Goal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li><li>•Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li><li>•Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li><li>•Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li></ul>
<b>Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values</b>	Because our program is designed to enroll high-ability students, we aim to provide programming and opportunities that will enable these students to be successful. That is why we provide one-on-one meetings, course offerings, dedicated programming, grant opportunities, and the ability to earn further distinction that will enable them to be eligible for future awards such as Graduation with Leadership Distinction and national fellowships.
<b>Status</b>	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
<b>Action Plan</b>	Within our Capstone Consultations, events where we invite partner offices, Capstone Scholars Leadership Program course, etc we will continue to work with students to connect with resources and opportunities that help them achieve their own goals.

<b>Achievements</b>	<p>79 Capstone Scholars were recognized as Capstone Scholars Fellows at the Capstone Scholars Fellows Colloquium event.</p> <p>The Magellan Apprentice Undergraduate Research Grant was awarded to 35 students</p> <p>Passport Travel Grants awarded to 54 student</p> <p>63.7% of 1st year students and 52.6% of 2nd year students completed all semester requirements.</p> <p>Total number of students who completed all requirements was 1,152 (58.86%)</p> <p>80 Capstone Scholars enrolled in the Capstone Scholars Leadership Program for Spring 18 which was a 31% increase in participation from last year.</p> <p>Four of the University's Five Hollings Scholars were Capstone Scholars</p> <p>A Capstone Scholar received the University's Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award</p> <p>Graduation with Leadership Distinction: 10 Capstone Scholars completed GLD in the Fall 17 semester, and 75 Capstone Scholars completed GLD in the Spring 18 semester.</p>
<b>Resources Utilized</b>	<p>Over \$97,000 awarded to Capstone Scholars and Capstone Fellows in 17/18 year. These awards were provided in the form of the Passport Travel Grant for maymester and study abroad programs, Magellan Apprentice Grant for faculty-mentored undergraduate research, and Professional Development Grant to fund student conference travel, professional memberships, and testing fees for graduate school. Over \$1,000 was spent on the Capstone Scholars Leadership Program materials</p>
<b>Goal Continuation</b>	<p>Will continue to fund all grant programs</p>
<b>Goal Upcoming Plans</b>	<p>Adding a new grant, Professional Development Grant beginning in Spring 18 with a budget of \$10,000 for Capstone Scholars Fellows</p>
<b>Resources Needed</b>	<p>Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities was between \$800,000-\$900,000 for fiscal year 17/18</p>
<b>Goal Notes</b>	

# Goals - Real Time

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Goals for the Capstone that are in progress for AY2019-2020.

## Goal 1 - Living and Learning Experience

<b>Goal Statement</b>	Enhance resident students' living and learning experience by encouraging interactions and connections with Faculty Principals.
<b>Linkage to University Goal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>•Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>•Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> <li>•Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
<b>Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values</b>	We want all Capstone Scholars to be globally aware, locally active, and life long learners and leaders. This goal aligns with our mission in providing an environment in which students connect to the Faculty Principal and the University of Housing LLC staff through events and one-on-one meetings.
<b>Status</b>	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
<b>Action Plan</b>	<p>Utilized EAB Pathfinder to create one-on-one student meetings with Faculty Principal in addition to the Capstone Scholars' staff one-on-one Capstone Consultation meetings.</p> <p>Faculty Principal led service-learning study abroad program over spring break</p> <p>Social events outside of the LLC offerings to allow students to meet with Faculty Principal and partner offices</p> <p>Presentations to all 55 Capstone Scholars sections of University 101 and the ENCP 105 that include the Faculty Principal and staff.</p>

<b>Achievements</b>	<p>In the Fall 18 semester, over 1,070 1st-year Capstone Scholars interacted with the Faculty Principal during presentations to all 55 Capstone Scholars sections of University 101 and ENCP 105 which led to 138 one-on-one meetings with students and the Faculty Principal.</p> <p>Faculty Principal U101 presentation was rated by U101 instructors a 4.59 out of 5 on being a valuable presentation</p> <p>30 Capstone Scholars were selected to the University 290 spring break service-learning abroad program to Costa Rica</p> <p>1,863 Capstone Scholars attended Capstone Scholars events in the Fall 18 semester including the Welcome Week event, Hot Cookie Friday, Adulting Workshops, collaborations with the Capstone LLC such as the alternative Fall Break program in North Carolina and Day of Service in Greenville, SC, study abroad information sessions and service team events.</p> <p>52 events in total were held in the Fall 18 semester.</p>
<b>Resources Utilized</b>	<p>Approximately \$250,000 have been spent so far on personnel (5 FTE's " Associate Principal, 4 Assistant Principals, two Graduate Assistants, Undergraduate Assistants) and Faculty Principal</p> <p>Approximately \$100,000 have been spent so far on supplies, programming and facilities.</p>
<b>Goal Continuation</b>	<p>Increasing enrollment plays a factor in adjusting methodology and timing of one-on-one meetings.</p>

<p><b>Goal Upcoming Plans</b></p>	<p>Upcoming Spring 19 Capstone Consultation requirement will utilize select campus partners to encourage students to broaden outreach beyond the Capstone Scholars Program. This plan will continue into next year specifically for the Spring semester Capstone Consultation requirement for 2nd year students.</p> <p>Created a new "Capstone Scholars Faculty Principal" appointment in EAB Pathfinder for students to directly schedule appointments with Faculty Principal.</p> <p>The Faculty Principal will visit all 55 sections of Capstone Scholars University 101 sections to introduce himself and the accompanying Capstone Scholars staff member to present on the Capstone Scholars Program, benefits, requirements and allow the Faculty Principal to personally greet each student. We will partner with University 101 to have this presentation scheduled through ScheduleCenter for University 101 instructors to easy arrange this presentation.</p>
<p><b>Resources Needed</b></p>	<p>Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities is between \$800,000-\$900,000 for fiscal year 18/19</p>
<p><b>Goal Notes</b></p>	<p>Adoption of ScheduleCenter for University 101 faculty principal presentations allowed ease of registration as well as assessment.</p>

## Goal 2 - Enhancing Education

<b>Goal Statement</b>	Provide supportive living and learning environments that promote academic attainment of resident students.
<b>Linkage to University Goal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>•Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>•Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> <li>•Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
<b>Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values</b>	<p>Our mission is to enroll high-ability students to the University and serve them through a community that provides targeted educational and leadership opportunities within and beyond the classroom. We want all Capstone Scholars to be academically successful and retain the scholarships they were awarded as incoming freshman. Additionally, for students to get involved in study abroad, research, and more, students must be academically successful in the classroom to qualify for a variety of experiences that we also promote. With many of our students being non-SC residents, it's important that our students maintain scholarships in order to help with retention to the 2nd and 3rd year.</p>
<b>Status</b>	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
<b>Action Plan</b>	<p>All Capstone Scholars are required to take a Capstone Scholars section of University 101</p> <p>Capstone Scholars specific sections of English 101 and 102</p> <p>Academic requirement for all Capstone Scholars is to maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA each semester.</p> <p>Partner with Student Success Center to create new "Success Consultations" for students having a GPA between 2.0-3.0.</p> <p>Adulting workshops geared towards life skills as well as habits of success such as Time Management</p>

<b>Achievements</b>	<p>Enrolled 1,311 1st year Capstone Scholars as of the end of the Fall 18 semester. Total enrollment of the Capstone Scholars Program is 2,270 1st and 2nd year students.</p> <p>According to our internal tracking, 89.71% of students who were 1st year Capstone Scholars in Spring 18 returned to campus as a Capstone Scholar in the Fall 18 semester. This number does not factor in students who withdrew from the Capstone Scholars Program but still returned to campus.</p> <p>Average GPA for all Capstone Scholars in Fall 18 was a 3.598, with 92.54% of all Capstone Scholars finishing with over a 3.0GPA. This tracks along with the previous academic year.</p> <p>Provided 55 sections of Capstone Scholars University 101 courses (10 more than last year) and 14 Capstone Scholars English 101/102 courses with special themes.</p> <p>85 students attended our 6 Adulting Workshops for Fall 18 (40 more students than previous semester)</p>
<b>Resources Utilized</b>	\$3,500 was spent in partnership with First Year English Programs
<b>Goal Continuation</b>	<p>Due to the nature of our high-ability students, this goal continues for the foreseeable future in order to retain students, help students retain their scholarships, and promote an environment which will allow students to be successful in the classroom.</p>

<b>Goal Upcoming Plans</b>	<p>Capstone Scholars-specific courses such as University 101 sections (over 50 sections), themed English 101 and 102 courses, ENCP 105 for Capstone Scholars, University 290 (leadership course and spring break service learning), maymester programs</p> <p>University 101 requirement for all Capstone Scholars</p> <p>Partnership with Student Success Center for students who fall below a 3.0 GPA</p> <p>All Capstone Scholars are required to maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA (to maintain University scholarships)</p>
<b>Resources Needed</b>	<p>Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities is between \$800,000-\$900,000 for the fiscal year.</p>
<b>Goal Notes</b>	

**Goal 3 - Connecting Students to Promote Community**

<b>Goal Statement</b>	Connect resident students to USC opportunities and activities both as part of the living and learning community and outside of the community to cultivate a sense of belonging with the University
<b>Linkage to University Goal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>•Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>•Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> <li>•Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
<b>Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values</b>	Our mission is to enroll high-ability students to the University and serve them through a community that provides targeted educational and leadership opportunities within and beyond the classroom. We want all Capstone Scholars to be globally aware, locally active, and life long learners and leaders. This goal aligns with our mission in providing a variety of beyond the classroom experiences, both academically and socially, that will promote opportunity and belonging.
<b>Status</b>	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
<b>Action Plan</b>	Developed a new student-led Service Team that will provide service experiences for Capstone Scholars, seek out partnerships with Capstone House to co-sponsor select events on top of what the Capstone Scholars Program already provides through the Programming Council, student-led Programming Council will create events designed to introduce our primarily out-of-state population with opportunities to connect with the Columbia area.

<b>Achievements</b>	<p>Total event attendance for the Fall 18 semester from 52 Capstone Scholars events was 1,863 students.</p> <p>Total number of one-on-one meetings with staff (not including faculty principal) and 1st and 2nd-year students in Fall 18 was 848. Of those meetings, 687 were with 2nd year students via Capstone Consultations.</p> <p>We met with 1,071 1st year students via University 101 classroom presentations, ENCP 105 presentation, and in-office Consultation info-sessions.</p> <p>Usage of the Navigate system allowed our staff to serve 687 one-on-one individual meetings with 2nd-year students through Capstone Consultations. Survey respondents indicating a 98.8% satisfaction rate.</p> <p>Service Team provided 169 Capstone Scholars opportunities to provide 6,184 hours of service at 16 service site visits to the Columbia community, which is 5,673 more hours than Fall 17.</p>
<b>Resources Utilized</b>	
<b>Goal Continuation</b>	<p>Connecting students to opportunities outside of the Capstone Scholars community is an important aspect of our program (a majority of our students live outside the LLC) so specialized programming aimed to bring students together across multiple living environments will continue to be a priority on an on-going basis.</p>
<b>Goal Upcoming Plans</b>	<p>Will continue all current level of programming and partnerships with University Housing, utilizing EAB Pathfinder for one-on-one student meetings, Service Team will look to expand service offerings both on and off campus, including day-long service trips to Greenville/Charleston areas, and the Programming Council will continue to offer programs connecting students to opportunities in the Columbia area to promote a sense of belonging.</p>
<b>Resources Needed</b>	<p>Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities is between \$800,000-\$900,000 for the fiscal year</p>

<b>Goal Notes</b>	
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**Goal 4 - High-Ability Student Achievement**

<b>Goal Statement</b>	Work with high-ability students predicted to excel in the classroom and enable them to reach their full high-performing potential in and beyond the classroom
<b>Linkage to University Goal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>•Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>•Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> <li>•Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
<b>Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values</b>	Because our program is designed to enroll high-ability students, we aim to provide programming and opportunities that will enable these students to be successful. That is why we provide one-on-one meetings, course offerings, dedicated programming, grant opportunities, and the ability to earn further distinction that will enable them to be eligible for future awards such as Graduation with Leadership Distinction and national fellowships.
<b>Status</b>	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
<b>Action Plan</b>	Within our Capstone Consultations, events where we invite partner offices, Capstone Scholars Leadership Program course, etc we will continue to work with students to connect with resources and opportunities that help them achieve their own goals.

<p><b>Achievements</b></p>	<p>Total number of 1st and 2nd year Capstone Scholars ending Fall 18 semester was 2,270 students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•1st year Capstone Scholars: 1,311</li> <li>•2nd year Capstone Scholars: 959</li> <li>•59% of Capstone Scholars are non-SC residents</li> </ul> <p>The percentage of 1st year Capstone Scholars in Spring 18 who returned to campus as a Capstone Scholar in the Fall 18 semester was 89.71%. This percentage does not include students who returned to campus but withdrew from the Capstone Scholars Program.</p> <p>119 Capstone Scholars received the Capstone Fellows distinction in Fall 18 (14% of the class)</p> <p>10 Capstone Scholars received Graduation with Leadership Distinction in Summer 18 and Fall 18.</p> <p>16 Capstone Scholars were awarded the Magellan Apprentice Undergraduate Research grant in Fall 18 (9 2nd-years Capstone Scholars and 7 Capstone Fellows)</p> <p>59 Capstone Scholars were awarded the Passport Travel Grant in Fall 18 for use in Summer 19 (31 1st-year Capstone Scholars, 23 2nd-year Capstone Scholars, 5 Capstone Fellows)</p>
<p><b>Resources Utilized</b></p>	<p>Over \$70,000 awarded to Capstone Scholars and Capstone Fellows in 18/19 academic year at this point. These awards were provided in the form of the Passport Travel Grant for maymester and study abroad programs, Magellan Apprentice Grant for faculty-mentored undergraduate research, and Professional Development Grant to fund student conference travel, professional memberships, and testing fees for graduate school. Over \$1,000 was spent on the Capstone Scholars Leadership Program materials</p>
<p><b>Goal Continuation</b></p>	

<b>Goal Upcoming Plans</b>	<p>Adding a new grant, Professional Development Grant beginning in Spring 18 with a budget of \$10,000 for Capstone Scholars Fellows</p> <p>Service Abroad Grant beginning in Spring 19 for Capstone Scholars participating in Capstone Scholars service-based study abroad programs.</p>
<b>Resources Needed</b>	<p>Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities is between \$800,000-\$900,000 for the fiscal year.</p>
<b>Goal Notes</b>	

# Goals - Looking Ahead

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Goals for the Capstone that are slated for the upcoming year.

## Goal 1 - Living and Learning Experience

<b>Goal Statement</b>	Enhance resident students' living and learning experience by encouraging interactions and connections with Faculty Principals.
<b>Linkage to University Goal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>•Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>•Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> <li>•Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
<b>Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values</b>	We want all Capstone Scholars to be globally aware, locally active, and life long learners and leaders. This goal aligns with our mission in providing an environment in which students connect to the Faculty Principal and the University of Housing LLC staff through events and one-on-one meetings.
<b>Status</b>	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
<b>Action Plan</b>	Faculty Principal/student meetings scheduled through Navigate University 101 Capstone Scholars Presentations featuring Capstone Scholars staff and the Faculty Principal Programming Council's events featuring the Faculty Principal Capstone Scholars Leadership Week Dinner Capstone Scholars Etiquette Dinner Spring Break service learning program to Costa Rica led by the Faculty Principal
<b>Achievements</b>	
<b>Resources Utilized</b>	
<b>Goal Continuation</b>	Enhancing resident students' living and learning experiences by encouraging interactions and connections with the Faculty Principal is an ongoing goal for our program.

<b>Goal Upcoming Plans</b>	Faculty Principal one-on-one meetings University 101 class presentations with Capstone Scholars Faculty Principal and staff Programming Council events including Faculty Principal Leadership Week events Etiquette Dinner Spring Break service learning program to Latin America with Faculty Principal Partnerships with Capstone LLC
<b>Resources Needed</b>	Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities will likely be between \$800,000-\$900,000 for fiscal year 19/20
<b>Goal Notes</b>	

## Goal 2 - Enhancing Education

<b>Goal Statement</b>	Provide supportive living and learning environments that promote academic attainment of resident students
<b>Linkage to University Goal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>•Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>•Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> <li>•Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
<b>Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values</b>	<p>Our mission is to enroll high-ability students to the University and serve them through a community that provides targeted educational and leadership opportunities within and beyond the classroom. We want all Capstone Scholars to be academically successful and retain the scholarships they were awarded as incoming freshman. Additionally, for students to get involved in study abroad, research, and more, students must be academically successful in the classroom to qualify for a variety of experiences that we also promote. With many of our students being non-SC residents, it's important that our students maintain scholarships in order to help with retention to the 2nd and 3rd year.</p>
<b>Status</b>	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
<b>Action Plan</b>	<p>Capstone Scholars-specific courses such as University 101 sections (over 50 sections), themed English 101 and 102 courses, ENCP 105 for Capstone Scholars, University 290 (leadership course and spring break service learning), maymester programs</p> <p>University 101 requirement for all Capstone Scholars</p> <p>Partnership with Student Success Center for students who fall below a 3.0 GPA</p> <p>All Capstone Scholars are required to maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA (to maintain University scholarships)</p>
<b>Achievements</b>	
<b>Resources Utilized</b>	
<b>Goal Continuation</b>	Providing supportive living and learning environments that promote academic attainment of resident students is an ongoing goal for our program.

<b>Goal Upcoming Plans</b>	<p>Capstone Scholars specific courses (University 101, English 101/102, ENCP 105, University 290)</p> <p>University 101 requirement for Capstone Scholars</p> <p>GPA requirement for Capstone Scholars</p> <p>Partnership with the SSC for Success Consultations for students who fall between a 2.0-3.0 GPA to aid scholarship retention</p> <p>Study abroad programs (maymester)</p>
<b>Resources Needed</b>	<p>Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities will likely be between \$800,000-\$900,000 for fiscal year 19/20</p>
<b>Goal Notes</b>	

### Goal 3 - Connecting Students to Promote Community

<b>Goal Statement</b>	Connect resident students to USC opportunities and activities both as part of the living and learning community and outside of the community to cultivate a sense of belonging with the University
<b>Linkage to University Goal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>•Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>•Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> <li>•Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
<b>Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values</b>	Our mission is to enroll high-ability students to the University and serve them through a community that provides targeted educational and leadership opportunities within and beyond the classroom. We want all Capstone Scholars to be globally aware, locally active, and life long learners and leaders. This goal aligns with our mission in providing a variety of beyond the classroom experiences, both academically and socially, that will promote opportunity and belonging.
<b>Status</b>	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
<b>Action Plan</b>	<p>New partnership with Pillars to provide an extended orientation experience for Capstone Scholars</p> <p>Community Impact requirement for all Capstone Scholars (service/volunteering)</p> <p>Capstone Connectors mentee experience</p> <p>Communication/Marketing including social media, weekly newsletters, and website features</p> <p>LLC partnership with Capstone and Columbia Hall</p> <p>Campus Partnerships (including other faculty-led communities)</p> <p>Welcome Week event</p> <p>Service Team events</p> <p>Programming Council events</p> <p>Capstone Consultations</p>
<b>Achievements</b>	
<b>Resources Utilized</b>	

<b>Goal Continuation</b>	Connecting students to opportunities outside of the Capstone Scholars community is an important aspect of our program (a majority of our students live outside the LLC) so specialized programming aimed to bring students together across multiple living environments will continue to be a priority on an on-going basis.
<b>Goal Upcoming Plans</b>	<p>Will continue all current level of programming and partnerships with University Housing, utilizing EAB Pathfinder for one-on-one student meetings, Service Team will look to expand service offerings both on and off campus, including day-long service trips to Greenville/Charleston areas, and the Programming Council will continue to offer programs connecting students to opportunities in the Columbia area to promote a sense of belonging. Additional plans include:</p> <p>Partnership with Pillars to provide an extended orientation experience for Capstone Scholars  Community Impact requirement for all Capstone Scholars (service/volunteering)  Capstone Connectors mentee experience  Communication/Marketing including social media, weekly newsletters, and website features  Partnership with Capstone and Columbia Hall LLC  Campus Partnerships (including other faculty-led communities)  Welcome Week event  Service Team events  Programming Council events  Capstone Consultations</p>
<b>Resources Needed</b>	Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities will likely be between \$800,000-\$900,000 for fiscal year 19/20
<b>Goal Notes</b>	

## Goal 4 - High-Ability Student Achievement

<b>Goal Statement</b>	Develop a culture of engagement and self-authorship for high-ability students
<b>Linkage to University Goal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>•Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>•Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> <li>•Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
<b>Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values</b>	Because our program is designed to enroll high-ability students, we aim to provide programming and opportunities that will enable these students to be successful. That is why we provide one-on-one meetings, course offerings, dedicated programming, grant opportunities, and the ability to earn further distinction that will enable them to be eligible for future awards such as Graduation with Leadership Distinction and national fellowships.
<b>Status</b>	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
<b>Action Plan</b>	<p>Capstone Scholars Leadership Program course (credit and non-credit bearing)</p> <p>Capstone Connector leaders</p> <p>Student Leadership Retreat</p> <p>Programming Council leaders</p> <p>Capstone Assistants</p> <p>Capstone Scholars grants including Passport Travel Grant, Magellan Apprentice, and Professional Development Grant</p> <p>Service Team leaders</p> <p>Service Learning experiences</p> <p>Adulting Workshop series</p> <p>Capstone Fellows distinction</p> <p>Capstone Consultations</p>
<b>Achievements</b>	
<b>Resources Utilized</b>	
<b>Goal Continuation</b>	Developing a culture of engagement and self-authorship for high-ability students is an ongoing goal for our program.
<b>Goal Upcoming Plans</b>	

<b>Resources Needed</b>	Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities will likely be between \$800,000-\$900,000 for fiscal year 19/20
<b>Goal Notes</b>	

# Programs or Initiatives

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## Effective Programs or Initiatives

*List your most effective programs/initiatives toward fulfillment of mission.*

Capstone Consultations

Capstone Scholars Leadership Program (1-credit hour course)

Capstone Connectors Mentoring Program

Weekly Service Friday events

Student Leadership Retreat

Alternative Fall Break Service Trip in partnership with University Housing

Magellan Apprentice Research Grant

Study Abroad Programs (Spring Break Service Learning to Costa Rica, Service Maymester to

Ecuador/Galapagos, Maymester to Greece/Malta)

Adulting Workshops

Capstone Scholars/Visitor Center Prospective Student Tours

## Program Launches

*List any programs/initiatives that were newly launched during the Academic Year or any programs/initiatives you would like to launch in the coming year(s). Describe the program/initiatives, provide financial requirements (including additional staff), and Academic Year in which you would launch. What key performance indicators are you utilizing to track the success of this program?*

Capstone Scholars Student Leadership Retreat- Capstone Scholars Program partnership with Camp Long

Utilization of ScheduleCenter for Capstone Scholars Program/Faculty Principal presentations to University 101 -

Capstone Scholars Program partnership with University 101

## Program Rankings

*List any nationally ranked or external recognition during the Academic Year. For each, provide the formal name of the program followed by the name of the organization that issued the ranking, the date of notification, effective date range, and any other relevant information.*

# Community Engagement

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## Community Perceptions

*Describe how your unit assesses community perceptions of your engagement, and how the unit assesses the impact of community engagement on students, faculty, community and the institution. Provide specific findings.*

Data we have for this primarily comes from our Capstone Scholars Service Team events in the local community. Most data focuses on impact on student engagement. After each Capstone Scholars "Service Team" event the participants are encouraged to complete an assessment. Students are asked to respond to the prompt "I found this service experience meaningful" and asked to what degree they agree with that statement on a scale from 1-4 (1 being strongly disagree and 4 being strongly agree). Of those who completed the assessment (88 students), the score was a 3.8 out of 4.

# Collaborations

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## Internal Collaborations

List your Unit's most significant collaborations and multidisciplinary efforts that are internal to the University. Details should be omitted; list by name only.

- Office of Undergraduate Research - Magellan Apprentice Undergraduate Research Grant
- Study Abroad Office - Passport Travel Grant for Maymester/Summer study abroad programs
- USC Visitor Center - Special Capstone Scholars information session and housing tour
- Student Success Center - "Success Consultations" for Capstone Scholars between a 2.0-3.0 GPA
- University Housing - Capstone Scholars Learning Community
- University Housing - Fall Break Alternative Service Trip, Days of Service
- First Year English Programs - Themed sections of English 101 and English 102 for Capstone Scholars
- University 101 - Capstone Scholars sections of University 101
- College of Engineering and Computing - Capstone Scholars section of ENCP 105
- Office of New Student Orientation - Capstone Scholars lunch and info session
- Gamecock Pantry - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Green Quad Gardens - Capstone Scholars Service Team

## External Collaborations

List your Unit's most significant collaborations and multidisciplinary efforts that are external to the University. Details should be omitted; list by name only.

- International Service Learning (ISL) - study abroad provider for the Spring Break Service Learning Program to Belize/Nicaragua/Costa Rica
- CISabroad - study abroad provider for the two Capstone Scholars Maymester programs to Ecuador/Galapagos and Greece/Malta
- Camp Long - Capstone Scholars Student Leader Retreat
- St. Bernard Project - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Ronald McDonald House - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- EdVenture - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Project H.O.P.E. - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Palmetto Place Children's Shelter - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- CM Tucker Jr. Nurse Care Center - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Salvation Army Restore - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Martin Luther King Jr. Park - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Arc of South Carolina - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Maxcy Gregg Park -Capstone Scholars Service Team

# Campus Climate and Inclusion

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## **Campus Climate & Inclusion**

*Activities the unit conducted that were designed to improve campus climate and inclusion.*

A component that is required for Capstone Scholars to receive the Capstone Scholars Fellows distinction is to attend at least one beyond-the-classroom event or experience in which the student engages with diverse perspectives. This could include attendance at a diversity dialogue, Tunnel of Awareness, international week event, events through the Office of Multicultural Affairs, etc.

All Capstone Scholars staff completed the Discrimination and Harassment Online courses and modules.

# Initiatives and Fees

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## **Initiatives**

*Describe any new initiatives your unit will need for the coming year.*

## **Fees**

*List any new or changed fees that your unit has implemented or had to take on in the last academic year.*

# Concluding Remarks

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## Weaknesses and Plans for Improvement

*What is your unit struggling with? What plans do you have to overcome the weakness that you have faced in the next academic year.*

Areas of struggle include the ability to offer events in our current space, data collection methods for our particular population, and the ability to house a majority of our 1st year students in our community. This past year, about 52% of our 1st year Capstone Scholars lived in our community (Capstone and Columbia Hall) while the other 48% lived either in other communities on campus or commuted from home. Almost our entire 2nd year cohort of students live off campus (aside from those who live in on-campus communities their 2nd year or are Resident Mentors). Because just a 1/4 of our entire Capstone Scholars population lives in the Capstone Scholars community, we aim a variety of programs at connecting students no matter where they live to opportunities on and off campus in order for them to feel a part of the community.

The primary initiative to connect with our growing population no matter where they live is our Capstone Consultations. Our sophomore initiatives such as the Adulting Workshop series primarily targets our 2nd year students. The Capstone Scholars student leadership retreat is targeted at our upperclassmen, and we target our Capstone Fellows for special opportunities.

Space for events can be challenging (our Hot Cookie Friday events are now both outdoors and indoors at our office facility).

Methods are being developed to capture data of students living in LLCs but remains a challenge to easily collect involvement data on the other 3/4 of our students.

## Key Issues

*Identify key issues or potential challenges your unit will encounter this coming year and the steps you plan on initiating.*

Improved housing accommodations for our 1st year students in the Capstone Scholars community are needed to remain competitive with other communities on campus as well as other programs for high-ability students on other institutions. Aging facilities are in need of upgrades. Large enrollments (both a blessing and a challenge) are requiring our office to adjust how we conduct our one-on-one faculty/staff-student appointments and their frequency over a student's two years in our program. We have begun to rely on our partnership with University 101 and our campus partners to overcome this challenge particularly in the Fall semester for our 1st year students and Spring semester for our 2nd year students, respectively.

Space to offer small scale programming (i.e. not large enough to warrant reserving the Capstone Campus Room) is currently a challenge we face. The 2nd floor of our office facility was once used for such a purpose but due to staff expansion, that particular space is no longer available for programs aimed at over 15 students.

Tracking involvement data of nearly 2,300 Capstone Scholars across campus can prove to be a challenge. Currently difficult to get data points from a variety of campus partners. We hope and anticipate that BTCM and the associated data portal will alleviate this issue in the future.

## Quantitative Outcomes

*Explain any surprises regarding data provided in the quantitative outcomes modules throughout this report.*

Despite our student population growth, the academic performance for Capstone Scholars remains strong and on

levels from previous years. With nearly 93% of Capstone Scholars at over a 3.0 cumulative GPA (avg GPA is 3.6), scholarship retention remains high.

Our out-of-state representation grew this past year and our overall student population is near 60% for our almost 2,300 students.

Retention to the Capstone Scholars Program from 1st to 2nd year remains near 90% despite our population growth.

The first overnight student leadership retreat this past yielded high student satisfaction results which has led to look at other partnerships on campus such as Pillars for an extended overnight experience for 1st year Capstone Scholars.

## **Cool Stuff**

*Describe innovations, happy accidents, good news, etc. that occurred within your unit not noted elsewhere in your reporting.*

The Capstone Scholars Program admitted 1346 1st-year students beginning in the Fall 18 semester (60% non-SC residents). Average SAT is a 1365 and average ACT is 30.2

Even with our enrollment growth, the academic performance of our students remains strong with 93% of 1st and 2nd-year Capstone Scholars maintaining a GPA above a 3.0, which is helpful for our large non-SC students retaining their University scholarship.

Average GPA of all Capstone Scholars (over 2,200 students) is a 3.6

There were 30 Capstone Scholars who were 2019 Outstanding Senior Recipients (22% of all recipients)

Four of the University's five Hollings Scholars named in Spring 18 were Capstone Scholars

Capstone Scholar, Emily Dunn, was named a recipient of the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award in Spring 18

Faculty Principal Dr. Patrick Hickey hosted Mr. Dobson (of the University's Dobson Volunteer Service Program grant) during the Capstone Scholars spring break service-learning program to Costa Rica.

Over 190 Capstone Scholars during the past 9 years have been awarded the Capstone Scholars "Magellan Apprentice" Undergraduate Research Grant totaling nearly \$190,000 awarded to students to fund research with faculty and community leaders.

An estimated 46 Capstone Scholars were involved in faculty approved research projects across the university in Fall 18 alone.

The Capstone Scholars "Service Team" events yielded 5,673 more service hours during Fall 18 than Fall 17 with 31% of student participants serving at multiple events over the course of the semester.

First-year Capstone Scholars who had a Capstone Connector (upperclassman Capstone Scholar mentor) in the Fall semester were 36% more likely to complete their Capstone Scholars semester requirements compared to their non-mentored peers. In the Spring semester, they were 46% more likely to complete their requirements than their non-mentored peers.

Retention rate (according to our internal tracking) of those students who return to the University in the Fall semester as a Capstone Scholar (not including students who return to the University but withdrew from the Capstone Scholars Program) is at 90%.

Over 56% of 1st and 2nd-year Capstone Scholars completed all four semester requirements in the Fall 18 semester. Students are still able to "make up" requirements going into their Spring 19 semester. Completing semester requirements enables a student to remain eligible for Capstone Scholars grants and the Capstone Fellows distinction.

The Capstone Scholars Program is partnering with Pillars this summer for an extended orientation experience for Capstone Scholars (which will be the first ever extended orientation experience specifically for Capstone Scholars)

All four student leadership organizations within the Capstone Scholars Program (Service Team, Capstone Assistants, Capstone Connectors, Programming Council) were recognized as ELO experiences within BTCM.

Two Capstone Scholars Program staff were nominated for the Division of Students Affairs' New Staff Member of the Year Award

Two Capstone Scholars Program staff were nominated for the Division of Student Affairs' Continuing Excellence Award (2-5 Years)

Two Capstone Scholars Program staff were finalists for the M. Stuart Hunter Award for Outstanding Teaching in University 101