

# Executive Summary

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## Blueprint for Academic Excellence Capstone AY2021-2022

### Highlights

The Capstone Scholars Program enrolled approximately 1,500 1st-year Capstone Scholars in Fall 2020, similar in size to last year's cohort. Total enrollment of the Capstone Scholars Program is at nearly 2,900 1st and 2nd year students with our 1st year cohort representing nearly 25% of all 1st year UofSC students. While these numbers seem in line with previous years, it is important to note that we did not see a large dip enrollment due to Covid-19.

Capstone Scholars are recognized for their academic achievement and beyond the classroom involvement including service to the community, leadership, campus engagement, undergraduate research, and study abroad experiences.

Capstone Scholars are successful in the classroom with a 3.68 average cumulative UofSC GPA as of the end of the 2019/2020 academic year with 97% of all Capstone Scholars finishing the year with a 3.0GPA or above.

### 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

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: 02/01/2019

### Values Statement

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

Updated: 02/01/2019

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# Goals - Looking Back

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## 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>	
<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 Navigate 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>Faculty Principal/Capstone Scholars staff presentations to all 63 Capstone Scholars sections of University 101 and the ENCP 105.</p>
<b>Achievements</b>	<p>Select events were designed to include Faculty Principal interaction (Hot Cookie Friday, University 101 presentations, and the spring break service learning abroad program) which are designed to encourage students to set up individual appointments with the Faculty Principal.</p> <p>Over 1,000 students attended Hot Cookie Friday events during Spring 19 and the beginning of the Fall 19 semester where the Faculty Principal present. In the Fall 19 semester, 1,162 1st-year Capstone Scholars interacted with the Faculty Principal during presentations to all 63 Capstone Scholars sections of University 101 and ENCP 105 which has led to 87 one-on-one meetings with students and the Faculty Principal as of the end of October 2019. During the Spring 19 semester, there were 62 one-on-one student meetings with the Faculty Principal.</p> <p>In Spring 2019, 30 Capstone Scholars attended the University 290 spring break service-learning abroad program to Costa Rica led by</p>

# Goals - Looking Back

	the Faculty Principal.
<b>Resources Utilized</b>	Approximately \$460,000 have been spent so far on personnel (6 FTE's - Associate Principal, 4 Assistant Principals, Administrative Assistant), Graduate Assistants, Undergraduate Assistants, and Faculty Principal
<b>Goal Continuation</b>	Increasing enrollment plays a factor in adjusting methodology and timing of one-on-one meetings, events tailored towards Faculty Principal interaction, and frequency of events.
<b>Goal Upcoming Plans</b>	<p>We continue to involve the Faculty Principal in key events such as Hot Cookie Friday, one-on-one appointments, and University 101 presentations.</p> <p>We created a new "Capstone Scholars Faculty Principal" appointment in Navigate beginning Spring 19 for students to directly schedule appointments with Faculty Principal which also carried on into the Fall 19 semester.</p> <p>In May 2020, the current Faculty Principal will retire and a new Faculty Principal will begin their appointment. At this point it remains a challenge to plan for a transition mid-year, however we hope to involve the new Faculty Principal as much as possible during the Spring 2020 semester in order to plan initiatives involving connecting the new Faculty Principal to our students.</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 is between over \$1 million for FY20.
<b>Goal Notes</b>	<p>Adoption of ScheduleCenter for University 101 Faculty Principal presentations allowed ease of registration as well as assessment. We also reevaluated the University 101 presentations to include more time featuring the Capstone Consultant in each class (also to plan ahead for the future due to Dr. Hickey's upcoming retirement). This also allowed each Capstone Consultant to encourage students to meet with Dr. Hickey one-on-one during the Fall 19 semester.</p> <p>Based on assessment provided by University 101, we improved the value of the presentation this year. Last year "this presentation was valuable" rated a 4.59 out of 5. This year (Fall 19) this same question rated a 4.8 out of 5.</p>

# Goals - Looking Back

## 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>	
<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            Capstone Scholars specific sections of English 101 and 102            Academic requirement for all Capstone Scholars is to maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA each semester.            Partner with Student Success Center to create new "Success Consultations" for students having a GPA between 2.0-3.0.            Adulting workshops geared towards life skills as well as habits of success such as Time Management</p>
<b>Achievements</b>	<p>We enrolled over 18% more students this year than the previous year but we're able to maintain the academic profile and GPA performance of previous years through our partnership with University 101, First-Year English Programs, College of Engineering and Computing, and SSC.</p> <p>We enrolled approximately 1,500 new 1<sup>st</sup> year Capstone Scholars as of the end of the Fall 19 semester, and in partnership with University 101, provided them with 63 sections of Capstone Scholars University 101 courses (8 more than last year) which enrolled nearly 1,200 students. We offered 14 Capstone Scholars English 101/102 courses with special themes. We offered a Capstone Scholars section of ENCP 105 for CEC students who were not able to take a University 101 course.</p> <p>According to our internal tracking, 95.4% of 1st year students who finished the Spring 19 semester returned to campus in the fall. At the conclusion of the Spring 19 semester, 90.5% of all Capstone Scholars (over 2,200 students) had a 3.0 GPA or above.</p>

# Goals - Looking Back

<b>Resources Utilized</b>	Approximately \$5,000 was spent towards the academic partnerships with First Year English Programs and College of Engineering and Computing. We also spent \$14,000 on Global Classroom Programs.
<b>Goal Continuation</b>	Due to the nature of our high-ability students, this goal continue 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.
<b>Goal Upcoming Plans</b>	<p>Capstone Scholars-specific courses such as University 101 sections (over 60 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>	Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities is between over \$1 million for FY20.
<b>Goal Notes</b>	<p>We partnered with the Student Success Center to work with students who fell below a 3.0GPA at the end of the Fall 18 semester. This included 168 students, and they were asked to complete a SSC Success Consultation in Spring 19. Of those 168 students, 61 attended a SSC Success Consultation. Of those 61 students, 66% finished the Spring 19 semester with above a 3.0 GPA where only 42% of those who did not attend a SSC Success Consultation finished over a 3.0 GPA.</p> <p>We also learned that 46% of all Darla Moore School of Business/International Business applicants were Capstone Scholars this year. Of the total number of Capstone Scholars who applied, 72% of were admitted into the IB program.</p>

# Goals - Looking Back

## 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>	
<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>We provided events of varying size in order to break down our larger community into smaller communities, whether it be one-on-one meetings with students, social events, leadership courses, service events, etc.</p> <p>Total event attendance for the Fall 18 semester from 52 Capstone Scholars events was 1,863 students; 52 events in Spring 19 with 1891 attendees.</p> <p>Fall 19 semester through October we have had 1,755 card swipes at our Capstone Scholars events. If we include our U101 Capstone Scholars presentations, we've hit 2,917 card swipes at our events (not including Capstone LLC events).</p> <p>For Fall 19 according to the Housing dashboard for on-campus students, 82% of Capstone Scholars have attended 2 or more events. Over 680 students attended our Welcome Week event.</p> <p>In Spring 19, we met with 774 1st year Capstone Scholars in one-on-one Capstone Consultation meetings. Fall 19 through October we've met with 478 2nd year students one-on-one.</p>

# Goals - Looking Back

<b>Resources Utilized</b>	Approximately \$100,000 were spent on supplies this year including food, supplies, rentals, and other miscellaneous costs to support events.
<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 Navigate 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> <p>The Spring 19 Capstone Consultation requirement utilized 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>
<b>Resources Needed</b>	Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities is between over \$1 million for FY20.
<b>Goal Notes</b>	<p>Notable finds for select initiatives</p> <p>Pillars Extension Program for Capstone Scholars: July 27-28 at Camp Long in Aiken, SC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 incoming students, 4 upperclassmen attended (24 total)</li> <li>• Based on assessment:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ "This weekend left me feeling excited about being a Capstone Scholar" (95.8% strongly agree, 4.2% agree)</li> <li>◦ "I feel comfortable reaching out to a Capstone Staff member when arriving on campus in the fall" (95.8% strongly agree, 4.2% agree)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>We also saw where 1st year Capstone Scholars who had a Capstone Scholar Connector (2nd year mentor) were 13% more engaged. Mentors were 29.7% more likely to complete a personal challenge, service, or attend a Capstone Consultation.</p>

# Goals - Looking Back

	We created new assessment metrics for Capstone Consultations for Fall 19.
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# Goals - Looking Back

## 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>	
<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 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> <p>Personal Challenge requirement for all Capstone Scholars</p>
<b>Achievements</b>	<p>Our focus in providing experiences to enable high-ability students who've enrolled at the University as a Capstone Scholar to engage in beyond-the-classroom experiences continues to pay off. The Capstone Fellows distinction recognizes students who have a 3.5 GPA, have developed relationships with faculty, engaged in high-impact practices, and challenge themselves with diverse perspectives.</p> <p>In Fall 19, Of the Capstone Scholars who applied, 110 received the Capstone Fellows distinction (11.6% of the class). This cohort had a 3.82 average GPA. There are currently 235 Capstone Fellows (between 3rd and 4th year students).</p> <p>55 students enroll in the UNIV290 Capstone Scholars Leadership course in Spring 19.</p> <p>In the Spring 19 semester, 66% of all Capstone Scholars completed their Personal Challenge and their Community Impact requirement.</p>

# Goals - Looking Back

	54% of all 2nd year students (511 in total) reported visiting a select campus parter office (Research, Study Abroad, Career Center, USC Connect, NFSP office, etc.)
<b>Resources Utilized</b>	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.
<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>	<p>Will continue all Goal 4 initiatives and programs through the end of the academic year (listed below). The next Faculty Principal will begin in the Summer at which point we'd evaluate priorities, initiatives, events, etc. At this point, we plan as we did this past year and will begin to make adjustments as needed to provide the next Faculty Principal space to develop and implement initiatives.</p> <p>Capstone Scholars Leadership Program course            Capstone Connectors            Student Leadership Retreat            Programming Council leaders            Capstone Scholars grants: Passport Travel Grant, Magellan Apprentice, and Professional Development Grant            Service Team leaders            Adulting Workshops            Capstone Fellows distinction            Capstone Consultations            Personal Challenge</p> <p>For Capstone Scholars who were not in a Capstone Scholars section of U101 and missed the Capstone presentation, these students view a video and take a quiz to ensure they are aware of the requirements and opportunities available to them. This video is housed on our website.</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 is between over \$1 million for FY20.
<b>Goal Notes</b>	The number of Capstone Scholars who apply and receive the Capstone Fellows distinction remains around 11-14% of a cohort each year. We believe more students would be eligible for this distinction but it comes down to students submitting their experiences to our office, and in some cases students neglect to do that despite meeting the requirements for Fellows distinction.

# Goals - Looking Back

	<p>29 Capstone Scholars were awarded the Magellan Apprentice Undergraduate Research grant during the 18/19 academic year with 15 students applying for the grant in the Fall 19.</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>
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# Goals - Real Time

Goals for the current 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders.</li> <li>• Create new pathways to research excellence to become AAU eligible.</li> <li>• Cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus culture where every individual, regardless of background, has the full opportunity to flourish and thrive.</li> <li>• Harness the power, attributes and institutional diversity of an integrated and interoperative university system that enhances access, success and affordability for every eligible SC student.</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 Navigate 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>
<b>Achievements</b>	<p>Select events were designed to encourage Faculty Principal interaction from November 2019 through the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester and encourage students to set up individual appointments with the Faculty Principal. From November 1st through Spring 2020 semester, there were 56 one-on-one student meetings with the Faculty Principal. In Spring 2020, 37 Capstone Scholars enrolled in the University 290 spring break service-learning abroad program to Guatemala led by the Faculty Principal. Over 680 Capstone Scholars attended Hot Cookie Friday events from November 1st to February 28th (pre-COVID 19).</p> <p>Fall 2020 Welcome Week event attendance was 207 Capstone Scholars (due to COVID-19 restrictions). Over 1,400 students</p>

# Goals - Real Time

	interacted with the Faculty Principal and Capstone Scholars staff during the Capstone Scholars summer virtual orientation sessions. The Faculty Principal and Associate Principal partnered with Admissions for their Virtual Admitted Student Days and met with 600+ students during the Spring 2020 semester.
<b>Resources Utilized</b>	Approximately \$535,000 was spent on personnel (6 FTE's - Associate Principal, 4 Assistant Principals, Administrative Assistant), Graduate Assistants, Undergraduate Assistants, and Faculty Principal during the FY20 fiscal year.
<b>Goal Continuation</b>	Increasing enrollment plays a factor in adjusting methodology and timing of one-on-one meetings, events tailored towards Faculty Principal interaction, and frequency of events.
<b>Goal Upcoming Plans</b>	<p>We continue to involve the Faculty Principal in key events such as Hot Cookie Friday, one-on-one appointments, and academic partnerships with various UofSC colleges and schools.</p> <p>We continued to use the "Capstone Scholars Faculty Principal" appointment in Navigate to allow students to directly schedule appointments with Faculty Principal.</p> <p>In May 2020, the current Faculty Principal retired and a new Faculty Principal began their appointment. Major program initiatives, priorities, and strategic planning are all being discussed with the new Faculty Principal and will continue to adjust throughout this 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 is over \$800,000 for FY21.
<b>Goal Notes</b>	<p>COVID-19 impacted many areas during this reporting period. The Spring 2020 semester was scheduled to feature a variety of events, including a 15 year anniversary celebration of the Capstone Scholars Program, which had to be cancelled.</p> <p>Due to COVID-19 we did not move forward with in-person Capstone Scholars presentations in Capstone Scholars sections of University 101 featuring the Capstone Scholars staff during the Fall 20 semester. Instead we created an instructional video that was shared to all Capstone Scholars U101 instructors.</p>

## Goals - Real Time

	<p>COVID-19 also impacted traditional summer orientation, and we worked with New Student Orientation to utilize their platform (via Blackboard Collaborate and Cocky's Coop powered by Wisir) to interact with all incoming Capstone Scholars virtually during the hour-long Capstone Scholars orientation session.</p>
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# Goals - Real Time

## 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>• Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders.</li> <li>• Create new pathways to research excellence to become AAU eligible.</li> <li>• Cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus culture where every individual, regardless of background, has the full opportunity to flourish and thrive.</li> <li>• Harness the power, attributes and institutional diversity of an integrated and interoperative university system that enhances access, success and affordability for every eligible SC student.</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 are required to take a Capstone Scholars section of University 101 (with a few exceptions).            Capstone Scholars specific sections of English 101 and 102.            Academic requirement for all Capstone Scholars is to maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA each semester.            Partner with Student Success Center to create new "Success Consultations" for students having a GPA between 2.0-3.0.            Adulting workshops geared towards life skills as well as habits of success such as Time Management.</p>
<b>Achievements</b>	<p>We enrolled a similar number of students this year as compared to last year, and maintained the academic profile and GPA performance of previous years through our partnership with University 101, First-Year English Programs, College of Engineering and Computing, and SSC.</p> <p>We enrolled approximately 1,500 new 1<sup>st</sup> year Capstone Scholars as of the end of the Fall 20 semester, and in partnership with University 101, offered 51 sections of Capstone Scholars University 101 courses which enrolled 1,032 students. We offered 14 Capstone Scholars English 101/102 courses with special themes which enrolled a total of 290 students. Two Spring 2020 University 290</p>

# Goals - Real Time

	<p>courses were offered with international travel components.</p> <p>At the conclusion of the 2019/2020 academic year, the average cumulative institutional GPA of all Capstone Scholars (over 2,800 students) was a 3.68 with 97% of all Capstone Scholars finishing the year with a 3.0GPA or above (important for scholarship retention).</p>
<b>Resources Utilized</b>	<p>Approximately \$3,300 was spent towards the academic partnerships with First Year English Programs. Approximately \$15,000 was spent on Global Classroom Programs (University 290).</p>
<b>Goal Continuation</b>	<p>Due to the nature of our high-ability students, this goal continue 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 60 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 over \$800,000 for FY21.</p>
<b>Goal Notes</b>	<p>We continue to partner with the Student Success Center to work with students during the Spring 2020 semester who fell below a 3.0GPA at the conclusion of the Fall 19 semester, which as 228 students. Of those number 7 students did not enroll in the Spring 2020 semester, 7 students did not finish the Spring 2020 semester, and 31 students were required to meet with the University Advising Center as they were a student on academic probation. The Student Success Center then made contact with the remaining 183 Capstone Scholars to schedule a Success Consultation.</p> <p>Of the students who attended a Success Consultation, 94% of those students achieved a 3.0 or above GPA for the Spring 2020 term. Of those students who did not attend a Success Consultation, 77% achieved a 3.0 or above GPA for the Spring 2020 term.</p> <p>The average term GPA for those who attended was a 3.47 (2.92 for those who didn't attend).</p> <p>The average cumulative GPA for those who attended was a 3.06</p>

# Goals - Real Time

	(2.89 for those who didn't attend).
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# Goals - Real Time

## 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>• Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders.</li> <li>• Create new pathways to research excellence to become AAU eligible.</li> <li>• Cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus culture where every individual, regardless of background, has the full opportunity to flourish and thrive.</li> <li>• Harness the power, attributes and institutional diversity of an integrated and interoperative university system that enhances access, success and affordability for every eligible SC student.</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>	The student-led Service Team that will provide service experiences and civic engagement training for Capstone Scholars, seek out partnerships with Capstone House to co-sponsor select events on top of what the Capstone Scholars Program already provides.
<b>Achievements</b>	<p>We provided events of varying sizes in order to break down our larger community into smaller communities, whether it be one-on-one meetings with students, social events, leadership courses, service events, etc.</p> <p>Between November 1, 2019, and September 21, 2020 reporting period, we provided 48 events. At those events, we recorded 1,273 total participants who scanned their Carolina Card.</p> <p>During the reporting period from November 12019 through the end of the Spring 2020 semester, Capstone Scholars staff met with 708 students for "Capstone Consultation" individual meetings.</p> <p>During the 2019/2020 academic year, Capstone Scholars provided 1,283 hours of service at 19 organizations within the Columbia community. This includes the first Capstone Scholars domestic alternative spring break program (in partnership with the Leadership and Service Center) where 9 student volunteers provided over 100 hours of service in Merritt Island, Florida.</p>

# Goals - Real Time

	For those participating in Capstone Scholars service events, 96% reported feeling a greater sense of belonging with the Capstone community after the event.
<b>Resources Utilized</b>	Approximately \$70,000 was spent on supplies during this reporting period including food, supplies, rentals, and other miscellaneous costs to support events.
<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>	Major program initiatives will continue throughout the entirety of the current academic year.  Partner with Admissions, Housing, and Campus other campus partners to recruit and support students from minority populations. Provide training and events to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.
<b>Resources Needed</b>	Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities is over \$800,000 for FY21.
<b>Goal Notes</b>	We had planned an extended orientation week specifically for Capstone Scholars in partnership with Pillars for Carolina during Summer 2020. However, due to COVID-19 it was cancelled and is in the works for Summer 2021. Going into the Fall 2020 semester, the semester requirements for Capstone Scholars underwent a change ("CAP" requirements) where students are required to connect with the Capstone Scholars Program once a semester (whether that be an event or one-on-one meeting), a 3.0 cumulative GPA, and a submission of a personal challenge. These requirements, particularly the Connection requirement will change during the Fall 2020 semester due to COVID-19 and adjustment via strategic planning.

# Goals - Real Time

## 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>• Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders.</li> <li>• Create new pathways to research excellence to become AAU eligible.</li> <li>• Cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus culture where every individual, regardless of background, has the full opportunity to flourish and thrive.</li> <li>• Harness the power, attributes and institutional diversity of an integrated and interoperative university system that enhances access, success and affordability for every eligible SC student.</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. 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 (utilizing the University 101 office's U290 course for course credit)</p> <p>Capstone Connector leaders</p> <p>Student Leadership Retreat</p> <p>Programming Council leaders</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> <p>Personal Challenge requirement for all Capstone Scholars</p>
<b>Achievements</b>	<p>Our focus on providing experiences to enable high-ability students who've enrolled at the University as a Capstone Scholar to engage in beyond-the-classroom experiences continues to pay off.</p> <p>For the Fall 20 Capstone Fellows, of the Capstone Scholars who applied, 101 received the Capstone Fellows distinction (about 7% of that year's cohort). This cohort had a 3.87 average GPA which was slightly higher than the previous year. There are currently 211 total Capstone Fellows (between 3rd and 4th year students).</p> <p>13 Capstone Scholars were awarded the Magellan Apprentice</p>

# Goals - Real Time

	<p>Undergraduate Research grant during Spring 2020.</p> <p>We offered 5 sections of the Capstone Scholars Leadership course during Spring 2020 (3 credit sections, 2 non-credit). 64 students graduated from the course (67% 1st year students and 33% 2nd year students). 5 students co-taught as peer instructors (80% 2nd year students; 20% 3rd year students). For Fall 2020, we offered 2 sections, enrolling 25 2nd year students.</p>
<b>Resources Utilized</b>	<p>Approximately \$23,000 were awarded to Capstone Scholars and Capstone Fellows during this reporting period. These awards were provided in the form the Magellan Apprentice Grant for faculty-mentored undergraduate research and the Professional Development Grant to fund student conference travel, professional memberships, and testing fees for graduate school.</p>
<b>Goal Continuation</b>	<p>Developing a culture of engagement and self-authorship for high-ability students is an ongoing goal for our program.</p>
<b>Goal Upcoming Plans</b>	<p>We continue to evaluate all programs and initiatives as we begin strategic planning with the new Faculty Principal. Plans for this current reporting period.</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 over \$800,000 for FY21.</p>
<b>Goal Notes</b>	<p>Due to change in semester requirements and COVID-19 impacting event offerings, this year's Fellows cohort was slightly smaller in size (20 students less than last year). Due to the cancellation of Maymester and Summer study abroad programs, the Passport Travel Grant was not able to be awarded to students who had applied and received their grant acceptance.</p> <p>We piloted Fall sections of our leadership course aimed at the 2nd year students.</p>

# Goals - Looking Ahead

Goals for the next 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders.</li> <li>• Create new pathways to research excellence to become AAU eligible.</li> <li>• Cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus culture where every individual, regardless of background, has the full opportunity to flourish and thrive.</li> <li>• Harness the power, attributes and institutional diversity of an integrated and interoperative university system that enhances access, success and affordability for every eligible SC student.</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 Capstone Scholars staff and the Faculty Principal engaging with the University 101 Capstone Scholars Program Creation of Advisory/Alumni Council Capstone Scholars Leadership Week events Capstone Scholars Etiquette Dinner Study abroad program 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. The Capstone Scholars Program hired a new Faculty Principal that started in May 2020. During this initial year, programs and outcomes will be evaluated and updated to continue the mission of the Capstone Scholars Program.
<b>Goal Upcoming Plans</b>	Faculty Principal one-on-one meetings University 101 class presentations with Capstone Scholars Faculty Principal and staff Leadership Week events Etiquette Dinner Partner with resident halls and other LLCs that have Capstone

# Goals - Looking Ahead

	Scholars Partner with academic deans and directors to co-sponsor events for Capstone Scholars
<b>Resources Needed</b>	Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities is between over \$1 million for the next fiscal year.
<b>Goal Notes</b>	

# Goals - Looking Ahead

## 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>• Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders.</li> <li>• Create new pathways to research excellence to become AAU eligible.</li> <li>• Cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus culture where every individual, regardless of background, has the full opportunity to flourish and thrive.</li> <li>• Harness the power, attributes and institutional diversity of an integrated and interoperative university system that enhances access, success and affordability for every eligible SC student.</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>Capstone Scholars-specific courses such as University 101 sections (over 60 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</p>

# Goals - Looking Ahead

	fall between a 2.0-3.0 GPA to aid scholarship retention Study abroad programs (maymester) Provide research grants through the Magellan Apprentice grant program
<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>	

# Goals - Looking Ahead

## 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>• Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders.</li> <li>• Create new pathways to research excellence to become AAU eligible.</li> <li>• Cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus culture where every individual, regardless of background, has the full opportunity to flourish and thrive.</li> <li>• Harness the power, attributes and institutional diversity of an integrated and interoperative university system that enhances access, success and affordability for every eligible SC student.</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. We want our students to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. 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>	Partnership with Pillars for Carolina 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 LLC partnership with Resident Halls Campus Partnerships (including other faculty-led communities) Welcome Week event Service Team events Programming Council events Capstone Consultations Community Mentorship program Alumni/Advisory Council Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training and events
<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

# Goals - Looking Ahead

	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 Navigate 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership with Pillars to provide an extended orientation experience for Capstone Scholars</li> <li>Community Impact requirement for all Capstone Scholars (service/volunteering)</li> <li>Capstone mentee/mentor experience</li> <li>Communication/Marketing including social media, weekly newsletters, and website features</li> <li>Partnership with Capstone and Columbia Hall LLC</li> <li>Campus Partnerships (including other faculty-led communities)</li> <li>Welcome Week event</li> <li>Service Team events</li> <li>Programming Council events</li> <li>Capstone Consultations</li> </ul>
<b>Resources Needed</b>	Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities is between over \$1 million for the next fiscal year.
<b>Goal Notes</b>	

# Goals - Looking Ahead

## 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>• Attract, inspire, challenge and enable our students to become innovative thinkers and transformative leaders.</li> <li>• Create new pathways to research excellence to become AAU eligible.</li> <li>• Cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus culture where every individual, regardless of background, has the full opportunity to flourish and thrive.</li> <li>• Harness the power, attributes and institutional diversity of an integrated and interoperative university system that enhances access, success and affordability for every eligible SC student.</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>Student Leadership Retreat</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> <p>Personal Challenge requirement for all Capstone Scholars</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>	<p>Will continue all Goal 4 initiatives and programs through the end of the academic year (listed below). The next Faculty Principal will begin in the Summer at which point we'd evaluate priorities, initiatives, events, etc. At this point, we plan as we did this past year and will begin to make slight adjustments as needed to provide the next Faculty Principal to develop and implement their initiatives.</p> <p>Capstone Scholars Leadership Program course (credit and non-credit</p>

# Goals - Looking Ahead

	bearing) Capstone Connector leaders Student Leadership Retreat Programming Council leaders Capstone Scholars grants including Passport Travel Grant, Magellan Apprentice, and Professional Development Grant Service Team leaders Service Learning experiences Adulting Workshop series Capstone Fellows distinction Capstone Consultations Personal Challenge requirement for all Capstone Scholars
<b>Resources Needed</b>	Currently able to maintain all services through current budget. A fund budget for all personnel, supplies, programming, grants, travel, facilities is between over \$1 million for the next fiscal year.
<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.*

1. Recharge Week w/Health Carolina (a community that shares Columbia Hall with the Capstone Scholars community) focused on mental health, resiliency, stress management, and physical health.
2. Fall 2020 version of our Capstone Scholars Leadership course aimed at 2nd year students utilizing the University 101 Office's University 290 course.
3. Civic Engagement Certification Series
  - The Service Team launched the Civic Engagement Certification Series as a means to educate students on the importance of service-learning and community engagement. Scholars make a difference in the Carolina community by moving through the Active Citizen Continuum in this five-part certification series covering various topics including, but not limited to: food insecurity, sustainability and environmentalism, systemic racism, education, literacy, voting, civil discourse, homelessness, and more.
4. Weeding Wednesday
  - The Service Team has further expanded its number of service opportunities to scholars by creating specialized events which are shorter in length and offer a unique service-learning emphasis. Scholars may maintain, plant, and harvest in the two Capstone Scholar garden beds (in partnership with the Carolina Community Garden) and then deliver the produce to the Gamecock Pantry.
5. Service Ambassadors
  - We have instituted this new leadership opportunity for students to contribute to the Service Team. Scholars that show leadership, teamwork, and a passion for service and have met the attendance requirements, are invited to become Ambassadors and help facilitate and manage service events.
6. Real Talk Lead Team
  - The Real Talk Lead Team is a new student leader group developed to create and facilitate social justice based discussions and events.
7. Real Talk: Social Justice Series
  - Real Talk is an antiracism discussion series dedicated to creating a brave space for students to educate themselves on matters of social justice. Students engage in peer-lead discussions about a variety of human rights issues and how to make our Carolina community a stronger, more inclusive place.
8. Domestic Alternative Spring Break Program to Merritt Island in partnership with the Leadership and Service Center

## 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?*

University 101 sections for Capstone Scholars

English 101/102 themed sections for Capstone Scholars

Capstone Consultations

# Programs or Initiatives

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Capstone Scholars Leadership Program (1-credit hour course)  
Capstone Connectors Mentoring Program  
Weekly Service Friday events (both on and off campus)  
Hot Cookie Friday featuring partner offices (OUR, Study Abroad, SAVIP, SSC, National Fellowships and Scholar Programs, etc.)  
Magellan Apprentice Research Grant  
Passport Travel Grant funding  
Professional Development Grant for Capstone Fellows  
Capstone Fellows distinction  
Study Abroad Fall Break/Spring Break/Maymester Programs  
Adulting Workshops  
Capstone Scholars/Visitor Center Prospective Student Tours  
Recharge Week w/Health Carolina  
Real Talk - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program partnering  
Partnership with the Student Success Center for our students who fall below a 3.0GPA

## Program Terminations

*List any programs that were newly terminated or discontinued during the Academic Year.*

*Provide justification as to why the program was discontinued.*

Capstone Connectors mentoring program - did not return for academic year 20/21 (evaluating a return in the future)

Programs terminated (short term) due to COVID-19: Student Leadership retreat for Fall 2020, extended orientation w/Pillars during Summer 2020, Maymester abroad program during May 2020, Study abroad section of University 101 for Fall 2020

## 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.*

# 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.*

# 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.*

# Collaborations

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## Internal Collaborations

*List your Unit's most significant internal 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
- USC Admissions - Virtual Admitted Student Days Informaiton Sessions
- 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, Recharge Week
- 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 virtual info session
- Gamecock Pantry - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Green Quad Gardens - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Carolina Community Garden - Capstone Scholars Program office and Capstone Scholars Service Team
- SAVIP - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Leadership and Service Center - Capstone Scholars Service Team (Civic Engagement Series)
- Pillars for Carolina in the Leadership and Service Center - Capstone Scholars Pillars weekend experience

## External Collaborations

*List your Unit's most significant external 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 Costa Rica/Guatemala
- WorldStrides - Capstone Scholars Maymestser program to Portugal/England
- Under30Experiences - Capstone Scholars Spring Break program to Costa Rica
- Riverbanks Zoo - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Ronald McDonald House - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Savannah Salvation Army - CapstoneScholars Service Team (Day of Service)
- Habersham House - Capstone Scholars Service Team (Day of Service)
- Communities in School of the Midlands - CapstoneScholars Service Team
- PruittHealth - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Transitions - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Environmentally Endangered Lands Program - Capstone Scholars Service Team (Merritt Island Florida Alternative Break)
- Sams House - Capstone Scholars Service Team (Merritt Island Florida Alternative Break)
- Carolina Wildlife Center - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Pawmetto Lifeline - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Leeza's Care Connection - Capstone Scholars Service Team
- Love For the Eldery - Capstone Scholars Service Team

# Campus Climate and Inclusion

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## Campus Climate and 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 this past year. Staff are also participating in (and in some cases completed) LEAD training through the Department of Human Resources.

We partnered with the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs to provide Safe Zone training for our students.

The Capstone Scholars staff participated in How to Support a Survivor training through the Center for Health and Well-being during the summer.

We crafted a statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion that went out students over the summer. In the statement, we provide a place for students to submit ways we can improve our community and become more inclusive. We collaborated with our Housing partners to support resident mentors to develop peer-led discussion groups on DEI issues. These examples include:

- Service Team Events
  - The Capstone Scholars Service Team hosts 1-3 events every week. These events are centered around acts of service, thoughtful reflection and discussion, and service-learning focusing on challenges facing our Columbia community and the individuals and groups most affected by those challenges.
- Civic Engagement Certification Series
  - The Service Team launched the Civic Engagement Certification Series as a means to educate students on the importance of service-learning and community engagement. Scholars make a difference in the Carolina community by moving through the Active Citizen Continuum in this five-part certification series covering various topics including, but not limited to: food insecurity, sustainability and environmentalism, systemic racism, education, literacy, voting, civil discourse, homelessness, and more.
- Real Talk: Social Justice Series
  - The Real Talk Social Justice Series was created to be an antiracism discussion series dedicated to creating a brave space for students to educate themselves on matters of social justice. Students engage in peer-lead discussions about a variety of human rights issues and how to make our Carolina community a stronger, more inclusive place.

# 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.*

Covid-19 has certainly forced us to change our offerings and the ways we connect with the Capstone students. We still struggle with the issues from last year but the social distancing restrictions have hindered our larger events and ability to connect with a large number of students. Capstone Consultations still provide an important point of engagement but we have also had to change the way that was previously done due to Covid-19.

Areas of struggle include data collection methods for our large student population and the ability to house a majority of our 1st year students in our community. This year, about 53% of our 1st year Capstone Scholars live in our community (Capstone and Columbia Hall) while the other 47% live 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 Fall sections of our leadership course and our workshop series primarily targets our 2nd year students.

Collecting data in order to get an accurate picture of the engagement of all 2,900 Capstone Scholars remains a challenge but we continue to use in-house methods and work with Housing to get as good a picture as we can of our students' experience.

## Key Issues

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

One major issue is the ability to accurately track data across our entire student population. Tracking involvement data of nearly 2,900 Capstone Scholars across campus can prove to be a challenge. During this reporting period we used card swipe devices from University Housing to feed into the Housing dashboard, which all Faculty Principal communities now use. However, the dashboard only tracks students (in the demographic section and calculating % of engagers for example) who live on campus. Meaning, our dashboard now only includes roughly 1,500 students while not including the other 1,400 who live off-campus. This proves to be a challenge with dashboard accuracy.

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. Increasing enrollments are requiring our office to adjust how we conduct key initiatives including one-on-one faculty/staff-student appointments. 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.

# Concluding Remarks

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## 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 over 97% of Capstone Scholars at over a 3.0 cumulative GPA, scholarship retention remains high which is important for retention purposes. Retention to the Capstone Scholars Program from 1st to 2nd year remains near 90% despite our population growth.

## Cool Stuff

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

Retention rates compared to the Honors College and general University population dating back to 2015:

- 2015 - 91% 2nd year retention rate, 84% year 3 return rate, 77% year 4 return rate, 74% graduation rate
- 2016 - 92% 2nd year retention rate, 82% year 3 return rate, 77% year 4 return rate
- 2017 - 91% 2nd year retention rate, 85% year 3 return rate
- 2018 - 91% 2nd year retention rate
- On average, retention rate is about 3% below the Honors College and 3% higher than the general university population
- Graduation rate for Capstone Scholars is at 74% which is 9% higher than the general university population and 7% below the Honors College

Spring 2020 University Awards:

- Capstone Scholar, Sophia "Sophie" Bertrand, won the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award
- 13 Capstone Scholars won the President's Award (21% of all recipients)
- 39 Capstone Scholars won the Outstanding Senior Award (24% of all recipients)

Fall 2020 National Fellowships and Scholar Programs:

- Jared "JD" Dawson and Emily Saathoff were named Global Rotary Grant recipients

Average cumulative institutional GPA for all 1st and 2nd year Capstone Scholars is a 3.68

Of the 298 unique volunteers at our service events (488 volunteer spots were filled with a 33.5% rate of repeat volunteers), 99% found the service meaningful

Over 200 Capstone Scholars during the past 10 years have been awarded the Capstone Scholars "Magellan Apprentice" Undergraduate Research Grant totaling over \$200,000 awarded to students to fund research with faculty and community leaders.

Capstone Scholars Faculty Principal was a finalist for the Outstanding Advocate for First-Year Students Award

# Concluding Remarks

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One Capstone Scholars Program staff member received the Division of Student 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)

Capstone Scholars Program staff received the M. Stuart Hunter Award for Outstanding Teaching in University 101 in May 2020

Social Media:

- Facebook - 3,167 followers as of 9/23/2020
- Instagram - 3,182 followers as of 9/23/2020
- Twitter - 2,398 followers as of 9/23/2020