Needs Statement

Grant Development Workshop
10/28/2020
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Anatomy of a Needs Statement

1. Statement of Purpose
2. Data and references throughout
3. Local area description
4. Who will benefit?
5. What if there is no action taken?
6. Past actions and impact
7. New actions that will be taken
Examples of Statement of Purpose

1. As computers become increasingly ubiquitous and learning to code is emerging as a critical skill, youth in rural communities are being left behind. The integration of rural libraries with universities can overcome the geographical barrier to learning to code.

2. Our society needs citizens who make unbiased decisions using science, which requires a shift of introductory science courses away from portraying science as an exercise in memorizing to one of being a process of scientific thinking.

3. Digital humanities projects on slavery have moved beyond the phase of experimentation and have entered a new phase in which questions of sustainability, access and integration are now paramount. This requires the development and implementation of new technologies.
Get to the Statement of Purpose

• What words or phrases stand out as compelling?
• Which data points are the most clear? Which are new or profound?
• What data points are added information, but not impactful?
• Where is more supporting data needed?
• What images or pictures come to mind as the data is reviewed?
• How has the identified need historically been addressed? What is currently being done to address this need?
• Who is the target population or audience that will benefit from addressing this need? Does the target population or audience view this need as a major concern?
• What challenges will have to be overcome to address this need?
• What strengths can be leveraged to address this need?
• How can the applicant manifest change in addressing this need?
• What will this change mean for the target population or audience?
# List Important Points (PLT Example)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point</th>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Reference to Fact</th>
<th>Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>(Smith study, 2019)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Classrooms are equipped but faculty not trained in peer led teaching (PLT).</td>
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<td>2)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>(Yoko, 2007)</td>
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<td>Current students learn better with active pedagogies.</td>
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<td>3)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>(Hernandez, 2014)</td>
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<td>Peer led teaching (PLT) makes students more engaged.</td>
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<td>4)</td>
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<td>A system to recruit and train PLT student leaders and faculty is needed at BC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>BC Data and CCCC Data Mart.</td>
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<td>BC students struggle to pass STEM courses online and in traditional classrooms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Need demographic facts.</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BC STEM students are high risk, high need and have high life-changing potential.</td>
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</table>
Which is the Best Statement of Purpose?

1. We need funds to hire students to help faculty teach STEM concepts in the classroom.

2. STEM students at Bakersfield College struggle to learn, and the active learning pedagogy of Peer Led Teaching will improve their engagement and success.

3. Peer Led Teaching (PLT) has been shown to improve student engagement, which is critical for community college STEM student success. Thus, creating an effective process to train peer student leaders and faculty in this new pedagogy is needed for its implementation.
Keep These in Mind...

• **Focus** on one main issue. A grant project does not solve all issues in the college.

• Use **Data** And Comparative Statistics.

• Get the reviewers interested on a **personal level**.

• Highlight the hurdles, but **keep positive** about how this project will succeed and funding is needed to make it happen.

• Do not propose a request to supplant normal operations.

• Are there **supporting structures** and activities in the college that can complement this project?
Add Supporting Narrative to Needs Statement

• The request for the grant proposal may limit the number of words, pages, or paragraphs expected. Follow the grant directions and the prompts!

• Use your ordered and referenced list of points to make a clear case for the importance of your proposal.

• Write, rewrite, get feedback from others, and then rewrite.

• Most reviewers put more time into reading the needs statement and the budget than anything else.