

22 May 2020

**College of Arts and Sciences
Harrington School of Communication and Media**

Campaign Priorities

1. Innovative and Distinctive Programs: Creating a pathway for success in Social Sciences

Social Sciences Institute for Research, Education, and Policy (SSIREP)

Established in 2016, SSIREP is breaking down academic silos as it brings together more than 60 URI faculty from diverse fields of study. The Institute draws from traditional disciplines such as sociology, political science, and economics, as well as from engineering, pharmacy, nursing, biology, statistics, and more. SSIREP seeks to foster programs in scholarly research, teaching and learning, and outreach to students, faculty, government, and community. SSIREP's faculty focus on interdisciplinary investigations of human behavior, social institutions and political processes to improve society and public policy, educating our students and the public on potential policy solutions.

The Public Policy Lab

Internships and applied work experience are the most important factors on a resume for successful career placement after undergraduate studies, according to a recent survey in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. At the same time, the number of unpaid internships in the country is increasing, and access to paid internships is more readily available to students from high-income households. Conducting independent research, working at an internship, job shadowing and other applied learning opportunities require time and resources not available to students who rely on paid work outside of college to afford tuition and living expenses. In addition, there is a significant gender and subject gap (e.g. social sciences vs. engineering majors). The Public Policy Lab will encourage local organizations and government agencies to submit research and evaluation needs to the University. Students will be placed on teams led and directed by faculty that will work closely with the respective organization (e.g. public sector partners, community-based organizations and government agencies) to provide the needed research and evaluation. Students will gain valuable work experience in social and analytical skills, while having a chance to work in a field of interest to co-produce a professional policy report.

2. URI Learning Experience: Ranger Hall

Building a Permanent Home for the Harrington School

The expansion of the Ranger Hall renovations into floors 2-4 will create a central space for students, faculty, and staff to connect, collaborate, and create. Ranger Hall will be the key community space for all programs within Harrington, housing the majority of classes and greatly enhanced production spaces.

We are embarking on a \$9.1 million expansion of this facility, renovating floors two, three, and four. The focus is on adding active-learning classrooms and multimedia production spaces, as well as a central administrative and student services suite. \$500,000 is needed to complete the project, additional funds are required for ongoing maintenance, upkeep and purchase of cutting-edge equipment. Numerous naming opportunities are available from classrooms to media editing suites to study carrels and benches in the hallways

3. Innovative and Distinctive Programs: Global Programming

Language and International Networking Center (LINC)

With over 700 students majoring in a foreign language, URI's College of Arts and Sciences is recognized nationally for its language acquisition programs offering students the opportunity to learn Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish. We are also home to the Chinese Flagship, one of the largest programs for Chinese language acquisition in the United States supported in part by the National Security Education Program (NSEP). Our programs are distinguished by a focus on written and verbal proficiency, as well as developing strong intercultural competency skills. The Arts and Sciences strategic plan calls for further developing our global footprint and increasing access and opportunities for our students. Central to this goal is renovating our Language Resource Center and transitioning it to a Language and International Networking Center (LINC). The LINC will be a place where URI students in all languages can network with language speakers at URI (our current international students, direct-exchange students, multilingual URI students, URI students currently abroad, international faculty, etc.) and at our partner institutions, engage in language conversation hours, receive free individual and group tutoring, and participate in cultural events. The LINC will enhance student community-building while at the same time providing concrete opportunities to link cultures, make new connections and provide much-needed opportunities to build language proficiency.

4. URI Learning Experience and Student Access

The Arts and Sciences Fellows

The College of Arts and Sciences Fellows Program offers summer fellowships to undergraduates in an A&S major to participate in research, scholarly, or creative projects under the supervision of a faculty mentor. These fellowships enable students to pursue sustained scholarly or creative projects, which research has shown leads to student success in future classes and in post-university careers.

5. Transformative Faculty Leadership

A&S Hope and Heritage Endowment

Long term professional development, research, and creative work results from investing in our faculty and students. The College of Arts & Sciences Dean's External Advisory Council, with major funding by Richard Beaupre '62, HON. '03, established the Richard Beaupre Hope & Heritage Fund to support student and faculty excellence within the College of Arts & Sciences. Hope & Heritage Funding enables faculty to present research, exhibit creative work, network with national and international peers, spend time in archives, complete workshops, and more. Funding also supports student research presentations at conferences and travel for fine arts students to creative performance competitions. The Hope & Heritage fund actively contributes to raising the visibility of URI as a national research institution.

Faculty Expertise: Recruiting Leading Scholars and Teachers

The Harrington School is proud to merge theory and practice with many professors having extensive

professional experience in their fields. We are seeking to enhance our national and international reputation by recruiting thought leaders and prominent scholars in communication and media. This will bolster our academic profile and add greater visibility for the school and our programs.

Endowed Professorship: Noted Media and Communication Scholar whose expertise can inform at least three different academic units within Harrington

Faculty of Practice in areas such as Journalism, Public Relations, and Film/Media

6. Strategic Opportunities: The College of Arts & Sciences Impact Fund

Fueling Growth and Student Opportunities

Every donation made to the Impact Fund directly supports the College of Arts and Sciences quickly, effectively, and strategically. By donating to the Impact Fund, you can be a part of creating new experiences and opportunities for all students, and allow us to say YES. Impact funds support student experiential learning opportunities, the A&S Fellowship program, career readiness workshops, and programming across the college for speakers, performances, and more. The A&S Impact fund also enables us to respond quickly to new hiring opportunities and create research supports to attract the strongest faculty candidates to URI.

College of Arts and Sciences / Harrington School of Communication and Media Points of Pride

1. Global Programming

The College of Arts and Sciences has a core focus on global learning and experiences for our students as we support the nationally recognized International Engineering Program, the first of its kind in the United States, along with programs in Business, Computer Science, and Pharmacy. The International Studies and Diplomacy Program began in fall 2020. These programs require a student to double major with a major in their chosen disciplinary focus area and in a language.

2. Student Success

College of Arts and Sciences students excel in the classroom as seen in the awards our students earn. Since 2010, Arts and Sciences students have received 18 Boren Awards; 5 US Department of State Critical Language scholarships; 12 Fulbright Scholars; 1 Marshall Scholarship (plus 4 finalists); 1 Rangel Scholarship; 2 Truman Scholarships (plus 4 finalists). In the Harrington School, new programs have been developed to move student to degree completion and furthering their skills for the workplace such as the Communication Studies online degree completion program and the accelerated Bachelor's to Master's program in Communication Studies.

3. Vibrant Performing Arts

College of Arts and Sciences Fine Arts programs in Art, Music, and Theatre not only graduate students who go on to successful careers, but also provide a robust calendar of events throughout each academic year.

4. Beaupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Science

One of the newest buildings on the University's Kingston Campus is named in honor of 1962 URI alumnus and supporter Richard Beaupre, the founder and chief executive officer of Lincoln-based ChemArt. Funded in large part by a \$61 million bond issue approved by Rhode Island voters in the 2010 election, the 135,000-

square-foot center serves more than 7,000 chemistry students. About 40 percent of all URI degree programs require at least one chemistry class.

5. Cross-divisional partnership between the Harrington School and URI Athletics

In collaboration with Cox Sports and ESPN+, we are now broadcasting home athletic events through our new broadcast center using professional staff and a team of highly trained student interns. Additional fiber connectivity will be installed to all athletic facilities on campus and a search will commence in the coming year for a sports video production coordinator to oversee this initiative.