

Strategic Planning Committee #4

The Role of Wabash and Wabash Men in the Larger World—Draft #4

Introduction

The president charged our committee with exploring the role of Wabash and Wabash men in the larger world, including our local community. Achieving our mission is the way in which Wabash will have an impact on the larger world. To that end we embarked on a holistic review of our mission, the ways in which it resonates with our alumni, and the ways in which we want it to resonate with our alumni.

Survey data and anecdotal information suggests that “think critically” resonates most clearly with our alumni and current students. The remaining elements do not resonate as clearly with our alumni and students. Our survey of a sample group of alumni who graduated within the last fifteen years suggests acting responsibly, leading effectively, and living humanely are important in their personal and professional lives; however, their undergraduate experience did not enhance their understanding of those things.

We believe the following strategy and accompanying goals/tactics will close the gap between our stated mission and our success in achieving it.

Strategy #1

Wabash College will continue its methods and programs for teaching men to think critically and be more **intentional** in educating men to act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely.

Recommended Tactics

- Use the planning committee’s alumni survey as a baseline for studying Wabash mission-effectiveness.
- Be more intentional in co-curricular programs for acting responsibly, leading effectively, and living humanely.
- Develop a first-year program to better prepare freshmen for a full and well-rounded Wabash experience including high academic achievement, career development, extra-curricular involvement, and involvement in the local community.
- Develop within the academic program more intentional ways in which all students will learn moral reasoning, ethics, and principled decision-making skills.
- Use alumni as a strategic advantage in curricular and co-curricular programs, especially those programs designed to enhance moral reasoning, ethics, and decision-making.
- Use alumni as a strategic advantage to enhance our international studies and study abroad programs.
- Explore how international studies programs can inform students’ understanding of acting responsibly, leading effectively, and living humanely.
- Develop a more formal connection between the National Association of Wabash Men’s W.A.B.A.S.H. Day and students as a model for alumni involvement in their local communities.

Introduction

Our committee identified two roles for Wabash in the local community: One, work with Montgomery County and Crawfordsville leaders to create a mutually beneficial residential community; two, create opportunities for our students to engage in new and creative ways with the local community.

Strategy #2

Wabash College will forge a mutually beneficial “town-gown” relationship between the College and Montgomery County.

Recommended Tactics

- Appoint a “town-gown” task force made up of faculty, staff, alumni, parents and local leaders not affiliated with Wabash who live in Montgomery County to identify concrete ways to build a mutually beneficial relationship.
- Create an alumni advisory board to advise the president on and identify economic development and investment partnership opportunities in the Crawfordsville area.
- Create opportunities for students in the Crawfordsville area (may be initiated in conjunction with strategy #1 or separated as a third strategy)
 - ESH jobs that are internships in local businesses and organizations
 - Fraternities and other student groups partner with downtown-related community service projects
 - Part-time work opportunities outside of ESH
 - Partnership with the city for off-campus housing options