**The Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue and the IIIT Chair for Interfaith Studies, Nazareth College**

**Strategic Plan**

**December 2012**

**EDUCATION**

**GOAL: THE HICKEY CENTER and THE IIIT CHAIR WILL PROMOTE INTERFAITH UNDERSTANDING AND PROVIDE INTERFAITH EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACROSS THE LIFE-CYCLE IN THE LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMUNITIES AND ACROSS THE CURRICULUM AND DIVISONS OF THE COLLEGE.**

**STRATEGIES**

The Center and the Chair will:

* offer programs whose aim is informed understanding and tolerance, promoting awareness, skills and training for specific groups and populations
* collaborate with other divisions at the College, developing ongoing programming partnerships to promote informed and respectful acceptance of difference
* promote scholarship in the area of interfaith through conferences, publications, and partnerships with other educational and research institutions in the US and abroad
* expand experiential interfaith opportunities for students and members through local, national and international internships and exchanges in collaboration with the College’s internship coordinator
* collaborate with the Department of Religious Studies to expand formal opportunities for interfaith study both through the Interfaith Minor and across the curriculum
* In addition, the IIIT Chair offers courses in Islamic Studies and programs to combat Islamophobia.

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

**GOAL: THE CENTER and THE CHAIR WILL WORK WITH ALL OF ITS INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PARTNERS TO DEVELOP NEW YOUNG LEADERS WHO HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE, THE SKILLS, AND THE PASSION TO BE ACTIVE IN BUILDING CIVICALLY ENGAGED INTERFAITH COMMUNITIES**

**STRATEGIES**

The Center and the Chair will:

* explore offering an advanced certificate in interfaith leadership either alone or in partnership with other institutions
* assess its existing leadership programs for efficacy, with the intent of change or improvement
* partner with the Student Development division, the Center for Spirituality and the Center for Civic Engagement to widen and deepen opportunities for students to evolve as leaders in the area interfaith understanding and action
* explore further development of programming partnerships to expand its effectiveness, efficiency and reach in the larger community both nationally and internationally, with an emphasis on building leadership capacity among young people worldwide.

**MARKETING**

**GOAL: THE CENTER and THE CHAIR WILL DEVELOP ITS REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AS AN ENTITY BOTH AFFILIATED WITH NAZARETH COLLEGE AND NETWORKED IN PARTNERHIP WITH INTERFAITH LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD**

**STRATEGIES**

The Center and the Chair will:

* undertake a community-wide survey to determine needs and interests in the Rochester area
* establish a stronger presence through social media and support on-going use and upkeep of its web presence
* expand its support network and its electronic newsletter
* make a special effort so that its ongoing work with teachers and organizations whose interest in the Center’s programs might be further developed or expanded
* actively seek opportunities (e.g. the affiliation with the Peace Institute, the Sacred Texts conference in 2013 and the Istanbul conference in 2014) to elevate its practice and presence both nationally and internationally.

**ASSESSMENT**

**GOAL:**  **THE CENTER and THE CHAIR WILL ESTABLISH SYSTEMATIC WAYS OF DETERMINING IF ITS PROGRAMS ARE EFFECTIVE IN CREATING BEHAVIORAL AND ATTITUDINAL CHANGE, AND CONTINUE TO EXPLORE BEST PRACTICES WITH ITS COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS.**

**STRATEGIES**

The Center and the Chair will:

* develop rubrics and assessment tools to determine the efficacy of its programs with regard to outreach and attitudinal change
* use existing research in the field of interfaith and in the sociology and psychology of attitudinal change as a basis for its own self-reflection and assessment
* publish its findings as a means of engaging a larger dialogue about strategies for change through its activities, experiences, scholarship and programming on interfaith issues

**STEWARDSHIP**

**GOAL: THE CENTER and THE CHAIR WILL ENHANCE ITS OWN BASE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND ENDOWMENT TO GUARANTEE THE FUTURE OF ITS PROGRAMS AND ITS LEADERSHIP.**

**STRATEGIES**

The Center and the Chair will:

* work in collaboration with the Office of Sponsored Programs and the Office of Foundations and Government relations to seek funds from grant-making organizations and foundations
* work with the offices of Development and Advancement to cultivate appropriate donors to underwrite its programs and scholarship
* carefully steward its existing resources to maximize support for its scholarship, administration, and programming