Exercise 3: *The Power of SUNY’s Six Big Ideas*

This exercise invites participants to think about the way SUNY Fredonia might set goals related to some or each of the Six Big Ideas in the strategic plan for the State University of New York, The Power of SUNY. There are several format options for this exercise, depending on group size, time allotted, and style that best suits that particular group. Any format would be useful in encouraging the ideas from that group to be included as the Steering Committee drafts the plan.

**Materials needed:**
- Flipchart paper and markers (or white/blackboard or computer with projector)
- Index cards and pens/pencils
- *The Power of SUNY* (full document or summary)
- Green and red signal dots (if doing gallery walk)
- Exercise 3 Response Template (available on CD or on the Power of Fredonia website, [www.fredonia.edu/president/strategicplan2011](http://www.fredonia.edu/president/strategicplan2011))
- Printed exercise sheets (or overhead transparency and projector)

**Recommended group size and composition:**
- Any size group
- Faculty, staff, students, others

**Time required:**
- 15-30 minutes: Format 1 (independent exercise, without discussion)
- 90-120 minutes: Format 2 (independent exercise, with discussion)
- 60-90 minutes: Format 3 (gallery walk, with discussion)

**Instructions for the facilitator:**
First choose the appropriate format for the group, based on size, interests, and areas of expertise. It is fine to have the group focus on just one or two of the Big Ideas. Large groups may want to divide, with each group addressing a Big Idea.

**FORMAT 1: Independent Exercise (without discussion):**
1. Introduce the exercise by presenting a summary of the Six Big Ideas in The Power of SUNY. You might distribute this in advance so that people come to the meeting having read through this. The Power of SUNY website has an introductory video that may be useful to show as you begin your discussion: [http://www.suny.edu/powerofsuny](http://www.suny.edu/powerofsuny).
2. Distribute the exercise sheets (next page) or use a computer, Elmo, or white/blackboard to display the open-ended statements.
3. Allow participants about 5 minutes to complete the statements, summarize their responses on a document template, and send to strategicplan2011@fredonia.edu.

**FORMAT 2: Independent Exercise (with discussion):**
1. Introduce the exercise by presenting a summary of the Six Big Ideas in The Power of SUNY. You might distribute this in advance so that people come to the meeting having read through this. The Power of SUNY website has an introductory video that may be useful to show as you begin your discussion: http://www.suny.edu/powerofsuny.
2. Distribute the exercise sheets (next page) or use a computer, Elmo, or white/blackboard to display the open-ended statements.
3. Allow participants about 5 minutes to complete the statements independently.
4. Engage the group in discussing their responses, trying to find areas of overlap as Fredonia considers how it will implement the SUNY Six Big Ideas.
5. Summarize these responses—as well as the individual responses—on the document template, and send to strategicplan2011@fredonia.edu.

**FORMAT 3: Gallery Walk Exercise:**
1. Set up six stations in the room with either computers or flipcharts, with one question at each station: What might the Big Idea of SUNY and [_____] mean for SUNY Fredonia?
2. Introduce the exercise by presenting a summary of the Six Big Ideas in The Power of SUNY. You might distribute this in advance so that people come to the meeting having read through this. The Power of SUNY website has an introductory video that may be useful to show as you begin your discussion: http://www.suny.edu/powerofsuny.
3. Divide the group into six sub-groups.
4. Have each group spend 5 minutes writing their thoughts about that question, then moving to the next station. They write directly on the poster/flipchart, so that all can see the comments.
5. If time permits, ask groups to move about the gallery again, making comments on others’ ideas or adding green signal dots to indicate agreement with ideas and red signal dots to indicate disagreement with ideas.
6. Engage the large group in discussion about what they wrote and observed.
7. Summarize the responses for each question as well as the group comments on the document template, and send to strategicplan2011@fredonia.edu.
Exercise 3: SUNY’s Six Big Ideas

List your ideas in response to each of these questions:

- What might SUNY and the Entrepreneurial Century mean for SUNY Fredonia?

- What might SUNY and a Seamless Educational Pipeline mean for SUNY Fredonia?

- What might SUNY and a Healthier New York mean for SUNY Fredonia?

- What might SUNY and an Energy-Smart New York mean for SUNY Fredonia?

- What might SUNY and the Vibrant Community mean for SUNY Fredonia?

- What might SUNY and the World mean for SUNY Fredonia?