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# Report on Ideas to Action (i2a)

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# Ideas to Action: the basics

- Ideas to Action (i2a): Using Critical Thinking to Foster Student Learning and Community Engagement is our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

- Part of our commitment to SACS-COC to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to enhancing student learning.

- Integral part of UofL's 2020 Plan:

**Educational Excellence**

**Community Engagement**

**Creative and Responsible Stewardship**

**Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity**

# Call to action at UofL

"Our extensive consultation with all University constituencies yielded a surprisingly strong and clear call for education focused on the **skills and knowledge** needed to deal with **real-world issues and problems**, an education in which **students can see the importance of the parts (the courses) to the whole (their education as citizens and workers).**" [QEP Report, 2007]

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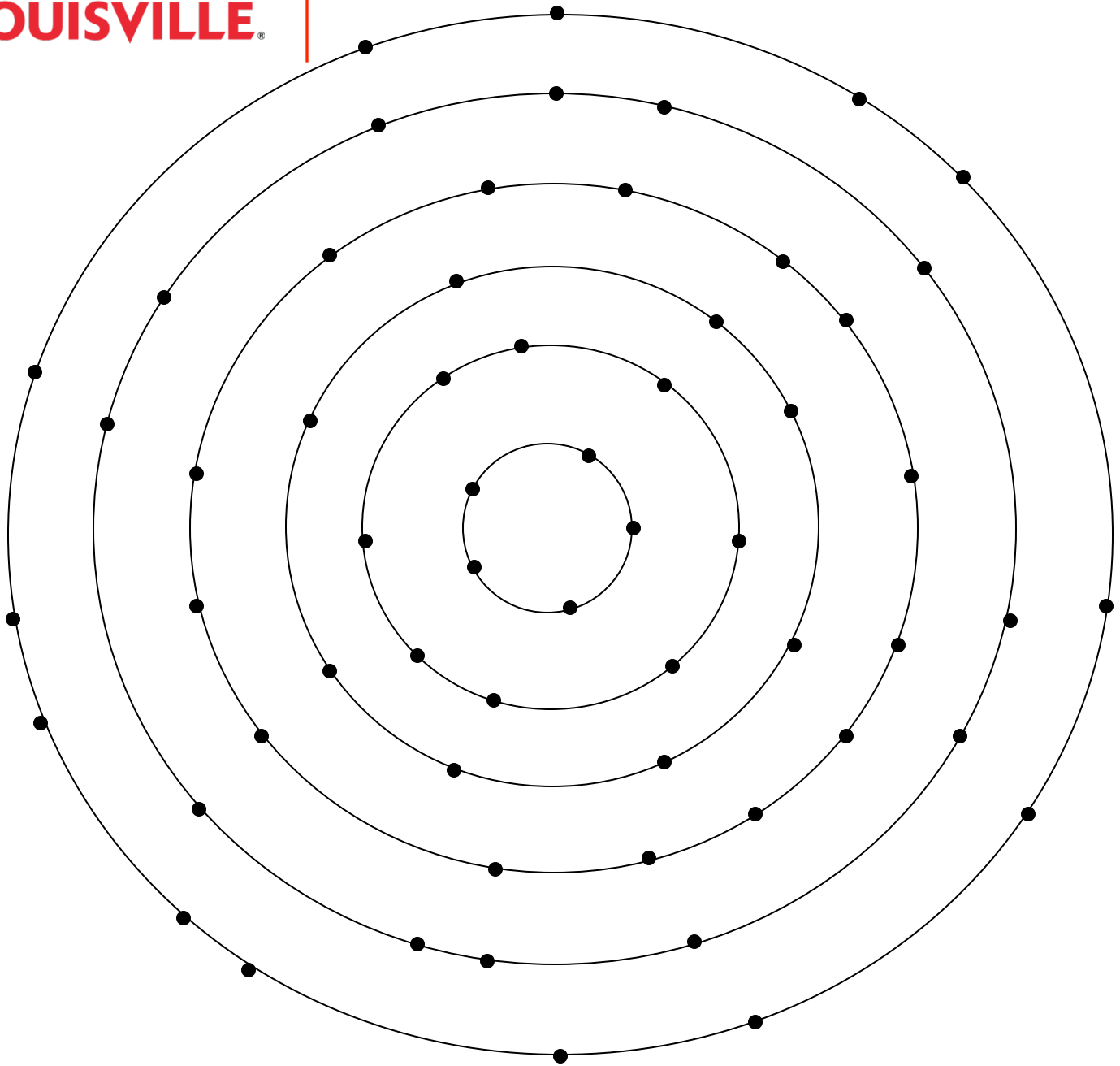
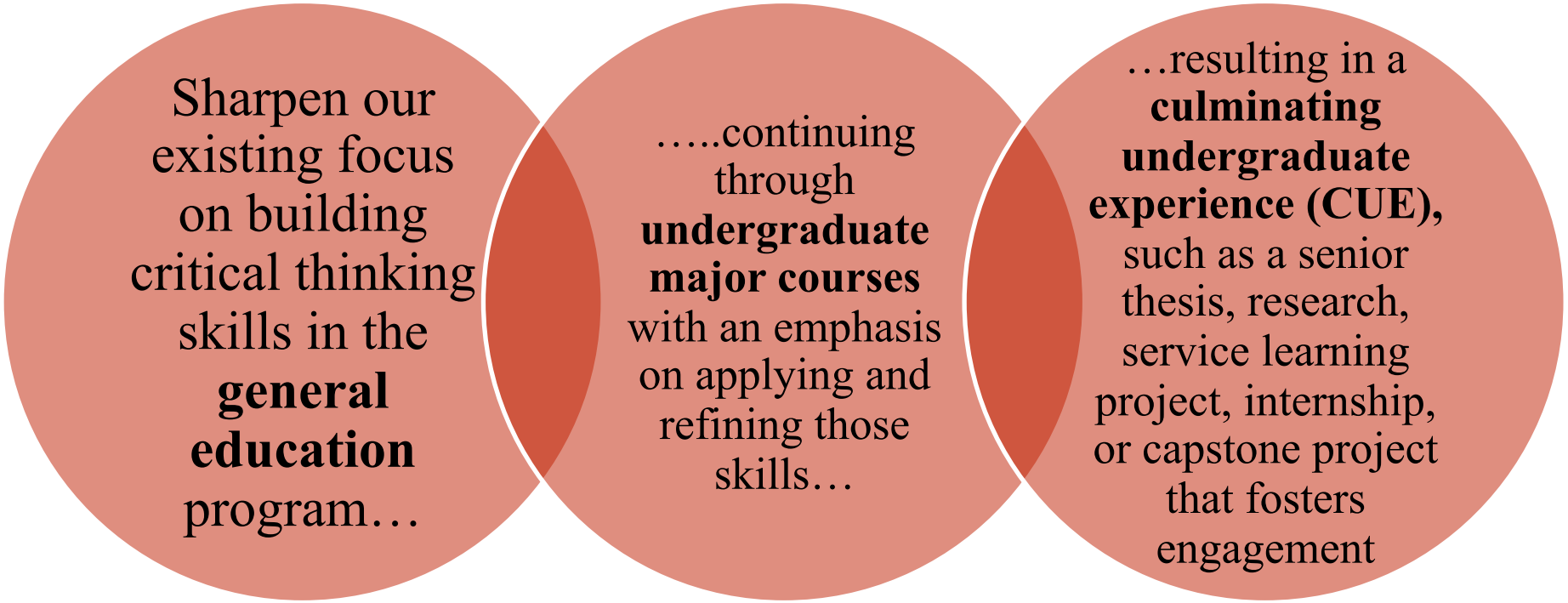


# i2a: an integrated theme across the undergraduate experiences



# i2a Team

Dr. Patty Payette
Executive Director, i2a
Associate Director, Delphi Center
for Teaching & Learning

Dr. Cathy Bays
i2a Specialist for Assessment

Harry Pickens
Special Assistant to the
Provost for New Initiatives

Dr. Nisha Gupta
i2a Specialist for Culminating Experiences

Dr. Edna Ross
i2a Specialist for Critical Thinking
Associate Professor Psychology

Thomas W. Evans
Graduate Assistant

# i2a and leadership across campus

- i2a Task Group and Subcommittees
- i2a Facilitators
- All academic units have i2a implementation plan
- i2a programs and projects developed in student affairs, academic affairs and student services

# i2a Assessment

- **Systematic collection** of information about i2a initiatives and processes, and their impact on student learning and development
- **Value-added** assessments of students, faculty, staff and the community
- **Measures include:**
  - Direct: Rubrics, reflections, data from new instruments
  - Indirect: NSSE, program and course evaluations
  - Video reflections and testimonial from faculty, staff and students
- **i2a Evaluation Plan:** Logic Model Pilot
- **Unit Implementation Plans**



**http://louisville.edu/ideastoaction/what/assessment**

# Campus trailblazers

- Early adopters in every unit
- List by unit reflects sustained commitment and integration of i2a: 150 faculty
- Approximately 2,281 students assigned "blue book" this year as a course text in 09-10
- Faculty, staff and student "adopters" from over 100 customized workshops/sessions per year

# i2a Learning Communities

- Faculty Learning Community on Critical Thinking (4,685 students impacted by this program since 2008)
- Faculty Learning Community on Culminating Undergraduate Experiences (pilot courses in every undergraduate unit)
- Collaborative Learning Community
- College of Business Critical Thinking Cohort
- Warning Intervention Program (WIP) with Academic Advisors
- Student Interest Group

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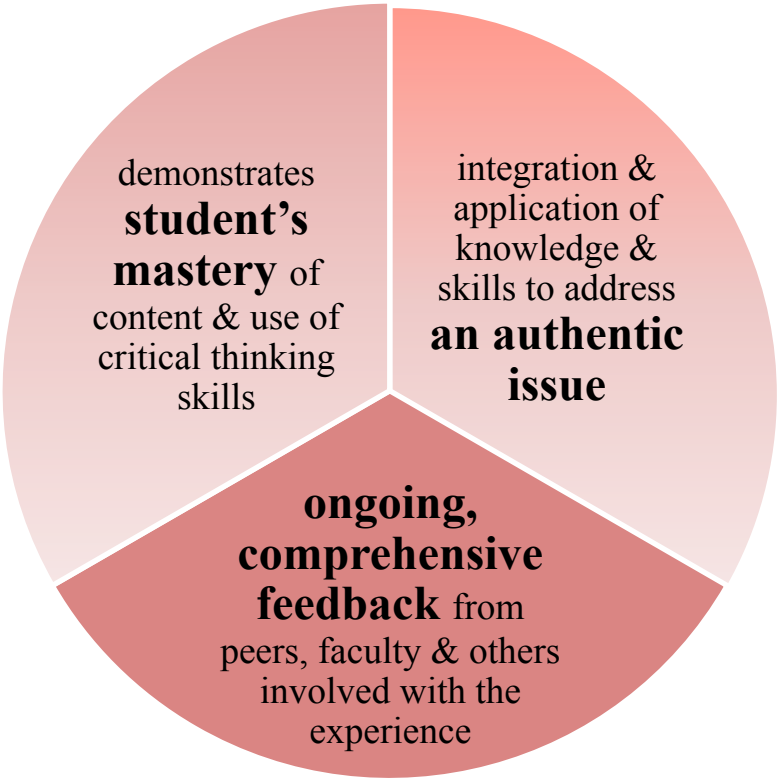
***Culminating Undergraduate Experience (CUE): senior-level experience where students explore & demonstrate the connections between well-cultivated critical thinking and disciplinary content***




✓Is undertaken after **sufficient academic preparation**

✓Is part or all of an **approved or accepted by the major** discipline

✓Results in an **output that can be assessed** with discipline-based evaluation criteria

# i2a Grants & Implementation Funds

**Supporting Undergraduate iNnovation (SUN) Grants:** small grants to support permanent integration of i2a outcomes

$71,835 distributed since Fall, 2008

**i2a Implementation Funds for Academic Units:** funds for academic units for training and integration activities

$37,120 distributed in Fall, 2009

# Support for curricular innovation

- Individual consultations and projects
- Projects with campus partners

(e.g. Office of Community Engagement, Graduate Teaching Academy, Cultural Center, HSC faculty, Digital Media Suite)

- Large-scale events such as i2a Day and the i2a Institute in May featuring national experts, faculty, staff and students sharing best practices, and national colleagues

# i2a online: http://louisville.edu/ideastoaction

- i2a resources, presentations, articles
- Faculty exemplars of "before" and "after" integration of i2a outcomes
- Video reflections of i2a impact on the teaching and learning of faculty, staff and students, including *Faculty Speak!*

# CoB Faculty Perspective

Imad Elhaj, Ph.D., Department of Finance
College of Business

**"My experience with the Faculty Learning Community has been both affirmative and transformative: it has provided context and clarity to some of the methods I was already using, but also expanded my horizons and deepened my understanding of how students learn."**

# i2a Regional and National Connections

- Invited presenters at the International Conference on Critical Thinking and presentations at SACS-COC mtg
- Requests for consultations and training from schools and universities
- Launched Kentucky QEP Network with EKU and KCTCS
- Recognition as only research-intensive university incorporating critical thinking across curriculum and student experience

# What's Next?

- Interim report to SACS-COC in March 2013
- Systematic collection of impact on student learning and faculty and staff artifacts
- Analysis of the impact of i2a across the institution
- Data collection leads to scholarship and publications from i2a