

# The Graduate and Professional School

SHSU Strategy in Action  
FY 2027 Planning and Budget Presentation

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# Community Engagement Graduate and Professional School

## Community Engagement

- Center for Community Engagement
- Center for Law, Engagement, and Politics (LEAP)
- The Woodlands Center

## Graduate and Professional School

- Graduate program oversight
- Admissions and enrollment management
- Student success
- Theses and dissertations
- Marketing and recruitment

# Part 1 – Execution Accountability

# Community Engagement and Graduate and Professional School FY25 Funded Initiative Outcomes

Initiative	Original Allocation Overview	Implementation Status	Measurable Outcomes / Early Indicators	Next Steps	Strategic Alignment
<p><b>The Woodlands Center (TWC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational infrastructure and facility enhancements to improve instructional delivery, student experience, and reliability of technology-enabled spaces</li> <li>Upgraded conference rooms and study spaces to support increased use, power needs, and collaborative learning environments</li> </ul>	<p>Fully implemented Fall 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved reliability and access to printing and classroom technology, resulting in increased faculty and staff satisfaction</li> <li>Reduced service issues and user complaints</li> <li>Increased student use and satisfaction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and monitor the performance of upgraded technology and facilities to ensure sustained reliability</li> <li>Identify additional high-use areas for targeted enhancements based on use and feedback</li> <li>Leverage improved facilities to support expanded programming and student engagement</li> </ul>	<p>Strengthened student experience and learning environment at TWC (retention, completion)</p>



# Community Engagement and Graduate and Professional School FY26 Funded Initiative Outcomes

Initiative	Original Allocation Overview	Implementation Status	Measurable Outcomes / Early Indicators	Next Steps	Strategic Alignment
<b>Center for Community Engagement (CCE)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Converted temporary funding to permanent support to sustain and scale community engagement, applied learning, and workforce readiness initiatives</li> </ul>	Fully Implemented Fall 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanded faculty participation in community-engaged teaching and research through stipends, workshops, and seed grants</li> <li>Increased availability of ACE-designated courses and faculty engagement opportunities</li> <li>Provided travel support to faculty and students, expanding participation in regional and national conferences</li> <li>Launched cohort model for Workforce Ready Kats, increasing structured student participation in community-based work-study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand ACE faculty development through tiered workshop model</li> <li>Increase student participation in community engagement and career readiness pathways</li> <li>Use pilot evaluation data to refine curriculum integration and expand additional cohorts</li> <li>Scale Workforce Ready Kats participation, partner sites, and student placement opportunities</li> </ul>	Increased experiential learning opportunities and workforce readiness (retention, completion, service)
<b>The Woodlands Center (TWC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational funding for cable TV to be made available in common areas of TWC</li> </ul>	Fully implemented Fall 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved awareness of local events, increasing satisfaction among faculty, staff, and students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor engagement</li> </ul>	Strengthened student experience and learning environment at TWC (retention, completion)



# FY25 Keep–Stop–Start (KSS) Initiative Progress

## Community Engagement and Graduate and Professional School

### Initiative Area

### Key Accomplishments

### Status

### Evidence of Impact

### Strategic Plan Alignment

**KEEP – ACE courses and Faculty Development**

- Expanded ACE course offerings (Fall +17%, Spring +33%)
- Increased faculty participation in ACE pedagogy with 37 faculty completing ACE workshop series
- Scaled capacity to delivery community-engaged learning across programs

**Completed / Ongoing**

- Increased availability of ACE-designated course sections
- Data analysis shows ACE course participation is associated with lower DFQ rates and higher student GPA

Community engagement  
Academic excellence  
Student success (retention, completion)

# FY26 Keep–Stop–Start (KSS) Initiative Progress

## Community Engagement and Graduate and Professional School

Initiative Area	Key Accomplishments	Status	Evidence of Impact	Strategic Plan Alignment
<b>KEEP – ACE courses and ACE Faculty Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanded ACE course offerings across terms (Fall +26%, continued growth in spring)</li> <li>Increased integration of ACE to the general curriculum</li> <li>Broadened faculty and departmental participation in ACE delivery</li> </ul>	<b>Completed / Ongoing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased student access to CE-learning through core curriculum integration (UNIV 1101)</li> <li>Sustained broad academic department engagement in ACE</li> <li>Strengthened student engagement, civic learning, and academic success</li> </ul>	Community engagement Academic excellence Elevate the reputation and visibility Expand and elevate service Student success (retention)
<b>START – University-level graduate advisor meetings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established recurring meetings</li> <li>Created a structured forum for coordination, communication, and alignment across graduate programs</li> </ul>	<b>Completed / Ongoing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved clarity and consistency in graduate advising practices</li> <li>Established two-way communication channel between Graduate and Professional School and academic programs</li> <li>Enhanced coordination and support for graduate student progression</li> </ul>	Student success (retention, completion)

# **Part 2 – Strategic Resource Alignment (*Budget Requests*)**

# FY27 Operational Enhancements

## Community Engagement

Priority	Proposal	What the Investment Enables	Why Needed Now	Expected Outcomes / Institutional Impact	Strategic Alignment
1	<b>Administrative Staff (LEAP)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expands operational capacity of the LEAP Center to scale student-facing programs, internships, and engagement activities</li> <li>• Enables staff to focus on high-impact programming by reducing administrative burden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid growth in LEAP programming and demand has exceeded current staffing capacity</li> <li>• Without additional support, program expansion and student success is constrained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased student participation in LEAP programs and services</li> <li>• Expanded internship coordination</li> <li>• Improved student experience and student success through more consistent scalable service delivery</li> </ul>	Prioritize student success and access (retention, engagement)
2	<b>Travel for Community Engagement (TWC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expands outreach to community partners and employers to grow placement opportunities and program awareness</li> <li>• Strengthens pipeline for Workforce Ready Kats and other engagement-based programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing demand for student placement opportunities and expansion into Montgomery County requires increased partner engagement</li> <li>• Without dedicated outreach, growth placements and partnerships are limited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased number of active community partnerships</li> <li>• Expanded student placements and experiential learning opportunities</li> <li>• Strengthened regional presence</li> </ul>	Elevate the reputation and visibility of SHSU (employment outcomes) Expand and elevate service
3	<b>Administrative Staff (CCE)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expands capacity to scale ACE courses and integrate community engagement into curriculum</li> <li>• Enables systematic tracking and assessment of community engagement impact on student success</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership transition and increased program demand have created capacity gaps</li> <li>• Without additional support, growth in ACE implementation and assessment will be limited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased ACE course implementation across programs</li> <li>• Improved measurement of community engagement impact on student success</li> <li>• Expanded support to academic units integrating experiential learning</li> <li>• Strengthened alignment between engagement activities and student outcomes</li> </ul>	Student success (retention, completion) Elevate the reputation and visibility of SHSU Expand and elevate service

# FY27 Operational Enhancements

## Graduate and Professional School

Priority	Proposal	What the Investment Enables	Why Needed Now	Expected Outcomes / Institutional Impact	Strategic Alignment
1	<b>Recruiting Travel Funds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restores and expands graduate recruitment capacity through targeted regional and national outreach</li> <li>Enables direct engagement with prospective students to increase application quality and yield</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No dedicated recruiter in over two years has reduced recruitment reach and presence</li> <li>Current travel funding remains below prior levels, limiting ability to compete for graduate students</li> <li>Without investment, recruitment pipeline growth will remain constrained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased graduate applications and completed applications</li> <li>Expanded geographic reach and recruitment presence across Texas and key markets</li> <li>Improved yield through direct engagement with prospective students</li> </ul>	<p>Prioritize student success and access (enrollment)</p> <p>Elevate the reputation and visibility of SHSU</p>
2	<b>Staff – Graduate Student Success and Retention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes dedicated capacity to support graduate student engagement, persistence, and success</li> <li>Enables development of data-informed strategies to improve retention and student progression</li> <li>Expands delivery of student support services (virtual and F2F)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No dedicated graduate student staff since 2024, while demand for services has significantly increased</li> <li>Graduate student participation in support services has grown 124% since Fall 2024</li> <li>Current staff capacity is insufficient to sustain and scale services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved graduate student retention and persistence</li> <li>Expanded student support programming and engagement opportunities</li> <li>Development of analytics to drive data-informed student success strategies</li> <li>Enhanced graduate student experience and sense of belonging</li> </ul>	<p>Prioritize student success and access (retention, completion)</p>

**Part 3 – Institutional  
Listening (*FY27 Ideawake KSS  
Submissions*)**

# Part 3. Institutional Listening

## Community Engagement and Graduate and Professional School

Category:	Themes:	Response:	Next steps:
START	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthen internal graduate pipeline and coordinated pathways from undergraduate to graduate</li><li>• Seamless undergraduate to graduate pathways and coordinated graduate enrollment strategy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partnering with academic programs to design and expand pathways</li><li>• Collaborating with Enrollment to develop a coordinated graduate enrollment plan</li><li>• Aligning program development, recruitment, and advising to support pipeline growth</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify priority programs for initial pathway implementation</li><li>• Develop scalable models for undergraduate to graduate transition</li><li>• Align recruitment, advising, and program messaging to support graduate enrollment growth</li></ul>
KEEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhance graduate student funding opportunities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase ROAD to PhD scholarship funding</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Self-funded to create a sustainable change in funding</li></ul>