Overview

The Ideas to Action Project is a student-led initiative designed for Bonners to improve some aspect of your Bonner program, campus, or community. During the upcoming Fall 2017 Bonner Congress meeting, student representatives will have the opportunity to share their project ideas with Bonners across the network, hear about resources that might help them implement their projects, then leave with concrete action plans to successfully implement their ideas into action.

The annual Bonner Congress meeting brings together at least two student representatives from each Bonner campus to receive skill training and opportunities to network with other students. Since the inception of the Bonner Program, student input has been instrumental in creating, implementing, and strengthening the program on the local and national levels. The idea to form a student group with members from all of the Bonner Schools was proposed at the Summer Leadership Institute in the summer of 1994. This became the Bonner Congress meeting we know today.

This year, we hope to increase the impact and success of Ideas to Action Projects by asking Congress Reps to come prepared with an initiative that falls within six Ideas to Action Project categories.

1) Build more deliberative dialogue on diversity and inclusion
2) Create a workshop series or course on social action and community organizing
3) Cultivate care for yourself and build community in your Bonner Program
4) Develop processes and supports for community-engaged senior capstone projects
5) Mobilize student leaders to boost campus-wide engagement
6) Start up your Bonner program.

While we assume that your Bonner Leadership Team will have other project goals for the coming year, these six categories were chosen based on two factors: 1) they are representative of the themes expressed through campus and student annual reports, and 2) Bonner Foundation staff feel most equip to support students on ideas within these categories.

The following planning guide is designed to help your Bonner Leadership Team in selecting and then submitting your 2017-18 Ideas to Action Project.
**Ideas to Action Project Categories**

1) **Build more deliberative dialogue on diversity and inclusion**
Projects in this category will build around using a developmental model of trainings and other activities that address the need for more intentional, productive, and deliberative dialogue about issues of diversity and inclusion.
   - e.g. incorporate trainings on diversity and inclusion in the Bonner meetings calendar
   - e.g. collaborate with the office of multicultural affairs to fit diversity workshops into the campus-wide activities calendar

2) **Create a workshop series or course on social action and community organizing**
Projects in this category will revolve around creating and implementing a series of workshops or an academic course focused on social action and community organizing. Projects could also choose to provide educational opportunities on specific issues for Bonners or campus-wide.
   - e.g., design a campus-wide calendar of workshops about community organizing
   - e.g., build a plan to form Bonner issue-based teams, who are responsible for a Bonner meeting each week

3) **Cultivate care for yourself and build community in your Bonner Program**
Projects in this category will be focused on increasing awareness and practice of self-care and/or team building within your Bonner Program: first steps in building community and Bonner love.
   - e.g., develop self-care programming for mid-year retreats
   - e.g., implement a Bonner families structure for community building

4) **Develop processes and supports for community-engaged senior capstone projects**
Projects in this category will develop roles for students to help Bonner seniors carry out high level projects that connect their studies and service (which may begin in their junior year).
   - e.g., organize trainings, meet with community partners, and engage faculty so that Bonner seniors do a capstone project that (ideally) will also qualify for academic credit
   - e.g., discuss how to integrate a research project or capstone course into the Bonner Program

5) **Mobilize student leaders to boost campus-wide engagement**
Projects in this category will be focused on building a network of student leaders who serve a central, coordinating role in building a campus-wide movement of service and social justice.
   - e.g., convene Greek service chairs to create a multi-year, Big-Little service program
   - e.g., create a mid-year retreat for all student service leaders

6) **Start up your Bonner program**
Projects in this category will be focused on organizing a new Bonner Program and creating the frameworks, processes, and relationships on campus and in the community to make it successful.
   - e.g., create a Bonner handbook with important documents and expectations for future Bonner service and training
   - e.g., launch a Bonner Leadership Team
Choosing Your Ideas to Action Project

Below are four guidelines for determining an Ideas to Action Project:

- The idea that serves as the foundation of your project should fall within one of the six 2017-18 Ideas to Action Project categories.

- The Ideas to Action Project should be linked to the goals described in last year’s 2016-17 Campus Annual Report and/or Student Annual Report.

- Your Bonner student leadership team should play a significant role in the success and implementation of the Ideas to Action Project. The emphasis on student leadership refers to not only just the Bonner Congress Reps and Bonner Leadership Team, but also incorporating the broader Bonner or other students into the initiative.

- The Ideas to Action Project must be able to be realistically achievable in six months (October 2017 - April 2018).

Ideas to Action Project Proposal

After deciding on a preliminary idea for your Ideas to Action Project, we ask that you submit a brief Ideas to Action Project Proposal to the Bonner Foundation by September 25, 2017. Bonner Foundation staff along with the Bonner Advisory Board (BAB) will review your submissions to cluster campus teams within each Ideas to Action Project working session at the meeting.

The following questions will be asked on the online Ideas to Action Project Proposal.

- Name of College/University

- Contacts: Names and Emails of Bonner Leadership Team (BLT) Members, with an asterisk by the Congress Reps attending Bonner Congress

- Title of Your Ideas to Action Project

- Description: Provide a few sentences describing the goal(s) of your Ideas to Action Project and how it relates to your program's goals for 2017-18.

- Proposed Action: Describe what you hope to get done this year? Provide a tangible goal or outcome.

- Ideas to Action Project Category: Which of the six categories does your project align with?

Due by September 25, 2017 via Google Form
**Timeline**

The *Ideas to Action Project* is designed to be completed by mid-April 2018. To help schools successfully complete their project, below is a general timeline of *Ideas to Action Project* checkpoints throughout the year.

**September - October 2017 – Initial Project Planning**
Schedule a meeting with Bonner Staff, Bonner Leadership Team (BLT) Members, and Congress Representatives to discuss goals from the 2016-17 Annual Reports, decide which of the six *Ideas to Action* categories are of the most priority, brainstorm potential *Ideas to Action Projects*, and then decide and submit your project proposal.

**September 25, 2017 – Ideas to Action Proposal Submission**
The deadline to submit *Ideas to Action Proposals* via Google Form.

**October 6-8, 2017 – Bonner Congress Meeting at Siena College**
At this meeting, Congress Reps will receive training and have time to develop and refine their *Ideas to Action Project*.

**May 15, 2018 – Final Progress Report Due**
The deadline for Congress Representatives to submit Year-End *Ideas to Action Project* Progress Reports via the Student Annual Report. The Student Annual Report is an end-of-year assessment submitted by students from a Bonner Program’s BLT regarding updates and information about the year. This is a valuable tool in remaining connected across the Network, as well as continually be updated on ways that Bonner students can be best supported.

**Summer 2018 – Bonner Summer Leadership Institute**
Your Congress Representatives will share your completed *Ideas to Action Project* at the 2018 Bonner Summer Leadership Institute at Wagner College.

**Support**

Each project category will be supported by the following Bonner Foundation staff members:

1. **Build more deliberative dialogue on diversity and inclusion** — Ariane Hoy, Annie Pasqua
2. **Create a workshop series or course on social action and community organizing** — Bobby Hackett
3. **Cultivate care for yourself and build community in your Bonner Program** — Annie Pasqua, Sam Ha
4. **Develop processes and supports for community-engaged senior capstone projects** — Ariane Hoy, Bobby Hackett
5. **Mobilize student leaders to boost campus-wide engagement** — Sam Ha
6. **Start up your Bonner program** — Bobby Hackett