

1-3-2017

# Pemi Youth Center (PYC) Program [Project Proposal]

Jessica Dutille  
*Plymouth State University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.plymouth.edu/plymouthclusters>

---

## Recommended Citation

Dutille, Jessica, "Pemi Youth Center (PYC) Program [Project Proposal]" (2017). *Clusters*. 190.  
<https://digitalcommons.plymouth.edu/plymouthclusters/190>

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Plymouth State. It has been accepted for inclusion in Clusters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Plymouth State. For more information, please contact [ajpearman@plymouth.edu](mailto:ajpearman@plymouth.edu), [chwxson@plymouth.edu](mailto:chwxson@plymouth.edu).

## PSU Integrated Cluster (IC) Project Funding Process & Proposal Form

**Project Proposal Submittal Process:** All IC projects requesting funding will require the completion and submittal of three (3) forms:

- Project Proposal Form – project scope & outcomes** (*included in this document*)
- Project Guidelines Form – reflective document outlining desirable IC project attributes**
- Project Budget Form – Excel spreadsheet to facilitate budget planning**

### **Instructions for Submitting Project Proposals:**

- ✓ Download the 3 forms to your computer
- ✓ Complete the forms and save them; including the title of your project in the file name
- ✓ Forward the 3 files via email to the IC Project Manager, Ross Humer  
[rhummer@plymouth.edu](mailto:rhummer@plymouth.edu)
- ✓ Project Proposal will be logged & forwarded to the appropriate IC Guide Team

If not reviewed in advance of the submission, it is important to discuss the Project with the IC Guides to review, refine, and rework (if necessary) to obtain funding approval.

**Project Funding Review Process:** All proposed projects will be reviewed by the Cluster Guide team. Depending on the level of funding amounts being requested, the proposal request will follow the process outlined as follows:

- **Level 1:** Any project with a proposed budget of less than or equal to \$1,000 can be approved by the Cluster without additional review
- **Level 2:** Any project with a proposed budget of \$1,000 but less than \$5,000 can be approved by the IC Project Review Team, which is made up of representatives from each of the 7 Clusters (*see release time exception directly below*)
- **Level 3:** Any project with a proposed budget of \$5,000 or greater **or** requires faculty release time, must be first endorsed by the IC Project Review Team and submitted to the Academic Deans for review and approval

The project funding approvals are limited to one academic year; projects which require additional funding in subsequent years will need to be resubmitted annually for review and approval.

**Deliverables:** At the conclusion of the academic year, a deliverable to the Integrated Cluster Proposal Review Team and Academic Deans is required in order for the project director/coordinator, artist, or author and collaborator(s) to be eligible for future funding. This reporting requirement may be met by numerous means which will be identified as this process matures. It is anticipated that awardees will present their works before a wide public gathering to be scheduled during the upcoming Academic Year.

**Instructions for the PSU Integrated Cluster Project Proposal Form:** Please complete all of the elements of the following form in the spaces provided before saving and then submitting the document.

## **PSU Integrated Cluster Project Proposal Form**

**Title:** Pemi Youth Center (PYC) Program

**Project Leadership:** (Identify Project Director/Manager or Co-Manager/s Jessica Dutille, Manager of High Impact Learning, Center for Business and Community Partnerships (CBCP)

**Project Description:** Plymouth State University (PSU) and the Pemi Youth Center (PYC) have a deep and long-standing relationship that dates back to PYC's inception in 1999. PSU announced a unique and formal partnership with PYC and Granite United Way (GUW) in 2013. This partnership takes a collective impact and interdisciplinary approach in community building and student engagement that is aligned with the integrated cluster mission and vision. The partnership leverages the PYC youth empowerment and leadership model in developing a new strategy in service delivery that engages over 80 PSU students each year, with the potential of involving even more students. These students learn that being a leader is not about a title, but rather it is about moving through the world with the courage to offer authenticity and collaboration. Their engagement builds organizational capacities while linking academic theories to practice, and they grow both professionally and personally as they lead by example. The priorities of this partnership as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding are to develop more opportunities for PSU students to become involved in comprehensive high impact learning experiences; provide the non-profit community with support when working with and mentoring PSU students; and to help increase capacity for an important community resource.

The PYC is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization located on Main Street in Plymouth. The organization serves as an empowerment program for youth ages 10-17 at no cost to families during after school hours and on school vacations. The program educates and empowers youth through academic assistance, creative arts, recreational activities, STEM activities, empowerment groups, substance misuse prevention, and much more. In addition, PYC provides nutritious snacks and a daily meal, which the majority of youth participants rely on. The organization believes that purposeful mentoring relationships are the foundation in creating a culture of compassion. All program components are tailored to meet ever-changing needs, not through systems but rather through providing personal attention to each youth participant. It only takes one person to extend unwavering and unconditional love to make a difference in the life of a young person. At PYC, there is an entire team of advocates and change makers.

As we navigate increasingly complex societal challenges, PYC focuses on what is very simple and deeply impactful, human connection. The organization meets youth participants where they are and recognizes that everyone is a unique and beautiful being. The organization addresses issues of poverty, homelessness, substance misuse, inequities, body image and self-esteem, as well as other emergent issues facing today's youth and communities. Youth participants are encouraged to shed perceived limitations, and both staff and youth participants engage in self-reflective practices in efforts to support self-awareness, confidence, and mindfulness. Safe space for social and emotional learning to take place is

intentionally created as journeys of discovery unfold. In this way, youth participants are supported in finding their voices and contributing their ideas. At PYC, both diversity and unity are celebrated. Mistakes are embraced as opportunities for growth, and a deep sense of family and community is created.

PSU students engaging in high impact learning serve as dynamic mentors and leaders. These students are involved in all levels and functions of the PYC organization through community service, the Federal Work Study program, service learning, internships, and capstone experiences. Due to the fact that PSU and PYC share a staff/faculty member, students engage in higher levels of organizational decision-making and are well supported in supervision and reflective activities. This level of PSU student involvement is unique to PYC in comparison to other partnering agencies and businesses. Students come together from a variety of disciplines in an interdisciplinary manner, which enhances academic understanding and inspires a sense of social responsibility and connectedness to the Plymouth community. PYC is an innovative learning lab where PSU students are thought leaders in educating young minds and in addressing issues of social injustice, in advancing the fields of education and social service, and in cultivating social change.

A twelve-year-old youth participant said, "PYC means a lot to me. I look forward to PYC every day because I have so much fun. My favorite thing about PYC is that the people are nice and loving. The staff are kind and caring." The goals of the partnership, as well as the PYC program goals are measured through a survey assessment at the completion of each academic year. In this way, leaders are able to assess the impact on youth participants and PSU students. Data reflects the importance of the program in meeting the needs of youth and families and in developing professional leadership competencies and thoughtful citizenship among PSU students. In addition, comments point to the positive impact that the PYC program has on personal development. PSU graduate, Helen Wells, explained, "The Pemi Youth Center has not only positively affected my experience here at Plymouth State, but it has also contributed to the person I am today. Throughout my four years attending this university I have had many fantastic experiences, but none as great as working at the Pemi Youth Center." PSU faculty member, Dr. Kathleen Herzig, provided feedback about her intern's experience stating, "It is clear that you have created a warm, loving, educational environment for youth, volunteers and staff alike! I am excited to have future interns have an experience with the Pemi Youth Center."

Overseeing this initiative is the Manager of High Impact Learning in the Center for Business and Community Partnerships (CBCP), Jessica Dutille, who acts as the Executive Director of the PYC and teaches the Mentoring and Empowering Youth course on campus. In addition, Jessica provides facilitation for the Community Conversation group, which takes a collective impact and multi-sector approach to community building and partnership development. Grant funds from G UW are directed through the PYC to the CBCP to reimburse for Jessica's time in providing leadership, facilitation, and mentorship of PSU students. Without Jessica's involvement, the PYC organization would not have the capacity to train, supervise, educate, and mentor the large number of PSU students engaged. In addition, Jessica's practice of high impact learning advances high quality experiences across the region at other agencies and businesses. This partnership allowed for the hiring of Samantha Diemand, who serves as the Associate Director at PYC. Samantha was initially a PSU undergraduate student engaging in a service learning project through the Intro to Social Work course. Currently Samantha is working on her master's degree in school counseling at PSU and oversees the daily operations at PYC.

No additional funding is required for the initiative at this time. Going forward, the PYC is working on opening another chapter in the Franklin community, which could double the number of PSU students involved and serve additional youth throughout the region. In addition, there are other more southern communities in NH interested in opening PYC chapters. This growth creates a significant opportunity for revenue generation, as well as for PSU students to be profoundly involved in further developing this empowerment model. There is also great potential in including additional partners and in developing future collaborations.

## **Project Goals and Outcomes:**

### **1. Project Goals – Briefly identify and describe the objectives of this project**

**(See attached Logic Model)**

#### **Initial Outcomes**

Impact on PSU Students:

- Learn importance of civic engagement and community building
- Learn necessary skills sets for non-profit/youth services and education fields

Impact on Youth Participants:

- Value of safe and healthy lifestyles, positive self development
- Value of relationships
- Value of education
- Value of community

Impact on Families:

- Support of parents and families during the critical after school hours, learn importance of parenting support

Impact on Community:

- Safe environment for youth to engage during critical after school

#### **Intermediate Outcomes**

Impact on PSU Students:

- Participation in all levels and functions of PYC organization
- Application of curriculum/fields of study in practical setting

Impact on Youth Participants:

- Development of life skills

- Development of self-reflection and personal goals
- Development of healthy relationships
- Development of academic understanding
- Development of leadership skills

Impact on Families:

- Engage parents to be active participants in their child's development, by communicating daily progress/challenges

Impact on Community:

- Engagement with community partners

**Long-Term Outcomes**

Impact on PSU Students:

- Application of leadership and professional competencies
- Career development

Impact on Youth Participants:

- Increase in life skills and protective factors
- Increase in self-awareness, personal goals, and positive decisions
- Increase in positive and strong relationships
- Increase in academic understanding
- Increase in leadership skills and civic engagement

Impact on Families:

- Prevention of neglect and abuse within families

Impact on Community:

- Stronger community

**2. Student Learning Outcomes – Outline the expected student learning outcomes** Student learning outcomes vary based on course requirements in this interdisciplinary learning environment. However, all students have the opportunities to apply curriculum in a practical way that builds professional and leadership competencies, and advance career exploration and development.

**Rationale and Impact:**

Considering the questions below, please write your project rationale and impact statement.

Include how this project will further the Mission and Vision of PSU with respect to 1) fostering collaboration across disciplines; 2) addressing a relevant societal issue, and 3) establishing

relationships with community partners, external institutions, companies, non-profits, schools, government agencies, etc. and 4). Making an impact

How does this proposed project advance the Integrated Cluster mission and vision? How does this project facilitate high impact teaching and learning, cross disciplinary collaboration, student engagement and partnership involvement, and real world problem exploration? What are the anticipated impacts of this project?

Is this project an extension of work already in progress, or an entirely new endeavor? Does it integrate with areas that team leaders are already teaching or is it an opportunity to delve into unfamiliar content or a bit of both?

**Project Rationale and Impact Statement:** The Pemi Youth Center (PYC) program facilitates high impact learning among PSU students who are engaged in all organizational functions, while advancing a unique youth empowerment model throughout the region. The program serves youth ages 10-17 at no cost to families and addresses issues of poverty, homelessness, substance misuse, inequities, body image and self-esteem, as well as other emergent issues facing today's youth and communities. The PYC is a vibrant, interdisciplinary, and innovative learning lab where PSU students apply curriculum in a practical way that supports their career development in the fields of social service, education, business, and the arts. The work that has unfolded between PSU and PYC over the past twelve years has had deep and long-term impact on professional and personal development among PSU students and youth participants. This work directly supports the mission and vision of PSU and the integrated clusters. In addition, there is great potential for program expansion and additional partners, as well as research opportunities and the development of evidence based practices.

## **Project Team**

**PSU Project Participants** (essential core team participants including faculty and staff)

Name	Position/ Title	Project Role	Discipline/ Specialty	Email
Jessica Dutille	Mgr. High Impact Learning	Project Lead/Exec. Dir. PYC	High Impact Learning/Mentoring and Youth Development	jadutille@plymouth.edu

**Non-PSU Project Participants** (stakeholders; partners; academic institution; etc.)

Name	Organization	Project Role	Discipline/ Specialty	Email
Dr. John Bentwood	Pemi Youth Center Board President	Representation of PYC Board of Directors	Organizational Leadership	johnbentwood@msn.com
Patrick Tufts	Granite United Way	Partner/Funder	Organizational Leadership	Patrick.Tufts@graniteuw.org

**Student Participant Profile** (Identify the student population/s to be engaged in the project.

Identify if this has been or is planned to be incorporated into curricula)

Class/ Student Organization/ Individuals	Role in Project	Academic Level (Undergraduate or Graduate)	Academic Discipline	Total Student Population
Samantha Diemand	Graduate Student/Associate	Graduate	School Counseling	1



	<b>Director PYC</b>			
<b>Intro to Social Work</b>	<b>Mentors</b>	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Social Work</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Social Work Practicum</b>	<b>Mentors/Pre-professionals</b>	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Social Work</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Leadership and Advocacy</b>	<b>Mentors</b>	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Childhood Studies</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Childhood Studies Interns</b>	<b>Mentors/Pre-professional</b>	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Childhood Studies</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Psychology Interns</b>	<b>Mentors/Pre-professional</b>	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Psychology</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Adventures in Wellness</b>	<b>Mentors</b>	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Adventure Ed.</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Philosophy coursework</b>	<b>Activity Leaders</b>	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Philosophy</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Career Exploration/Marketing</b>	<b>Program Support</b>	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>CoBA</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Art coursework</b>	<b>Workshop Facilitation</b>	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Art</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Marketing Association at Plymouth State (MAPS)</b>	<b>Special Events Facilitation</b>	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>CoBA</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Enactus</b>	<b>Mentors/Special Events Facilitation</b>	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>CoBA</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Social Work Club</b>	<b>Mentors/Special Events Facilitation</b>	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Social Work</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>PSU Volunteers</b>	<b>Mentors/Facility Support</b>	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Community Service</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Federal Work Study</b>	<b>Mentors/Team Leaders</b>	<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Interdisciplinary</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Potential for additional</b>				

undergraduate student participation from across disciplines				
---	--	--	--	--

## **IRB (Institutional Review Board) Compliance**

IRB Compliance: <http://www.plymouth.edu/office/institutional-review-board/>

- This project DOES NOT require IRB compliance  
 This project DOES require IRB compliance (*complete below*)

IRB Approval Status: Select an Option

IRB Approval Date: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Any funding approvals of IRB-required projects are contingent on obtaining IRB approval.

## **Project Management: Timeline and Milestones**

Identify the timeline for the project including start, completion, and major project milestones. A closing report will be required as a part of the project funding process.

**Project Start Date:** 9/1/2013

**Project Complete Date:** ongoing

Project Milestone	Milestone Description	Target Completion Date
Increase in high impact learning for PSU students	Increase in the number of PSU students engaging in high impact learning at PYC at Plymouth or at additional PYC site(s) in other communities.	5/18/2018
Increase in number of youth participants served	Increase in youth participation across the board with emphasis on high school enrollment.	6/15/2018
Expansion-Franklin Site	Launch new site in the Franklin community.	9/4/2017

		<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>
		<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>

Please identify any pre-project education or training for students, faculty, and staff that would be helpful for your project team to have in advance to begin work on a strong footing (e.g., skill training, concepts), and identify any training and education that you are willing to help provide during the preparatory period for the project team before team work formally begins.

**Student Education/ Training Requirements:**

All PSU students must complete the fingerprinting process and pass a criminal background check. All students must also successfully complete the comprehensive PYC training prior to engaging with youth participants.