

In the fall of 2019, Wichita State began pursuing the Innovation & Economic Prosperity (IEP) designation from the Association of Public & Land Grant Universities (APLU). <https://www.aplu.org/projects-and-initiatives/economic-development-and-community-engagement/innovation-and-economic-prosperity-universities-designation-and-awards-program/>

The IEP designation program helps higher education institutions better know, measure, tell, and enhance their economic and community development impact while recognizing institutions that have demonstrated a substantive, sustainable, and institution-wide commitment to and strategy for regional economic engagement, growth, and economic opportunity. In Kansas, both Kansas State University and the University of Kansas have received this designation plus over 70 other universities around the country.

WSU's APLU IEP submission will be based on our Strategic Plan Goals and documented activities through the Strategic Planning Dashboard Submissions. It aligns with what higher education institutions have been tasked with by the Kansas Board of Regents through their Building a Future strategic plan and the Department of Commerce Framework for Growth plan, as well as President Muma's goals and priorities.

At the heart of the IEP Universities program is promoting *institutional change* to **maximize the impact** of **research, learning, and engagement** on the regional economy and society. And that's where we need the help of faculty and staff.

We want to hear from you and get feedback as to where we go from here, what direction do we need to go in, what do we need to get done to move in that direction, what solutions do we need to have in order to move forward.

The pursuit of the designation does not add additional work for faculty and staff, but is a recognition of the work previously done, is being done, and will be done by faculty and staff.

Please fill out the survey [here](#) at your earliest convenience and prior to **February 8, 2022**. All responses will be kept confidential, and all identifying information will be removed.

If you have any questions or would like further information about the IEP process, please contact Diane Tinker Hurst at diane.tinker-hurst@wichita.edu.

Thank you for your time!