MISSION STATEMENT:

Building on the scholarly resources of Loyola University New Orleans, the Center for the Study of New Orleans promotes research into the city’s history, culture and environment.

The Center offers a full slate of public programs and courses. By integrating social justice and analytical thinking into all of its activities, the center fosters a critical understanding of New Orleans and provides opportunities to aid its renewal.

OBJECTIVES/GOALS:

One of the goals of the current year included initiating the New Orleans Studies minor. The minor helps to foster a critical understanding of New Orleans and fits with the university’s commitment to “foster student connectedness to the University and the New Orleans community;” (Loyola 2012, p.2)

The Center and the minor speak directly to the university’s goal of developing new programs …“emanating from our location in New Orleans…that are cross-disciplinary, interdepartmental, and inter-college…based on subject matter upon which no other University competes.” (Loyola 20112, p. 3)

Our other goal was to produce a series of public programs that fostered critical understanding of the city and bolstered the Jesuit values of the university community that demand a strong presence and connection to the city and its citizens. The programs helped fulfill the mission of Loyola to “prepare our graduates to take their place in this ever-changing world as competent, concerned, responsible members who will make a visible difference in New Orleans, their home community, their nation and the world.” (Loyola 2012, p. 2)

ASSESSMENT (What assessment tools are you using and how do they address the objective/goals cited above?):

No formal assessment has been conducted; however, evaluation of previous public programs by the steering committee guided the planning of topics, dates, advertising and speakers for future programs.
WHERE ARE THE ASSESSMENTS LOCATED?
N/A

EVALUATION METHODS (How were the assessments evaluated?):
Informal discussions in committee meetings.

RESULTS/OUTCOMES:
In determining the need for specific public programs and assessing their success, the committee looked at events and issues in the New Orleans community that would be of interest to New Orleans citizens and Loyola students and support our mission to foster “a critical understanding of the city” and provide “opportunities to aid its renewal.” We also aimed to support the university’s mission to prepare its students “to lead meaningful lives with and for others; to pursue truth, wisdom, and virtue; and to work for a more just world.”

USE OF RESULTS (What modifications, adjustments were made based upon the evaluation of the assessment materials?):
As a result of our committee deliberations, we planned a program that complemented the women’s studies minor and with a panel discussion highlighting the voluntary work of women in New Orleans’ history and in post-Katrina New Orleans. In keeping with our commitment to interdisciplinary studies, we put together another scholarly program that was supported by women’s studies, environmental studies and the Center for Environmental Communication on climate change and the oil spill. In two other programs we investigated significant aspects of New Orleans’ culture: the city’s special relationship with the Saints football team and the importance of music in New Orleans popular culture and, in particular, in the Treme television portrayal of the city.

RESOURCES/TIMELINE/APPROVALS (Based upon the modifications/adjustments included in the USE OF RESULTS section, identify the timeline, resources and approvals required to implement the change.):
In the spring of 2011, we planned for our major 2011 Fall event: NolaLoyola, the first of what we hope will be an annual event that celebrates and explores New Orleans culture and society. Our 2011 event was entitled “Live to Eat.” We sent out a call for papers on New Orleans foodways, contacted food vendors and a band for a lunch-time event, and contacted speakers for our keynote program in the evening. We also worked with Institutional Advancement on publicity, posters, fliers, and a cocktail reception before the evening program. The planning continued during the summer, particularly for the academic conference portion of the day and for the keynote event.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIGNATURE: DEPT. CHAIR/DIRECTOR</th>
<th>SIGNATURE: DEAN/VICE-PRESIDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td>Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Approval:</td>
<td>Implementation Date:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>