Overview
We have had a terrific start to our AVD High Impact Fellows project. Community interest among all potential stakeholders—high school teachers, Wofford faculty, and Wofford students—has been high. As a result, we formed 17 High Impact teams for the 2012-2013 grant year. These teams will complete projects in nine different disciplines, from biology to German, English to business education. Teachers from 11 high schools are participating. Below follow updates on three different areas of our work.

Dissemination and publicity

- Wofford College featured publicity in the following forms: newsroom announcements, official web pages, Wofford Today feature. Official web presence here: http://www.wofford.edu/avdGrant/
- “Speaking of Schools,” a half-hour program that runs on South Carolina Public Radio, featured a 10-minute interview with grant co-author Laura Barbas Rhoden about the HIF program on March 26, 2012. Podcast here: http://www.scetv.org/index.php/speaking_of_schools/show/body_worlds_vital_exhibit_visiting_the_u.s._capitol_and_woffords_high_
- Wofford program directors, with the Dean of the College, issued an official e-mail announcement and call for collaborators to school officials in all Spartanburg County districts (1-7).
- Faculty members working in existing collaborations with 9-12 teachers shared the call for collaborators with groups in social studies, science, and foreign language education.

Team formation and project logistics

- Our team model is one high school teacher, one Wofford student, and one Wofford faculty mentor. We have 15 such teams.
- We allowed flexibility among college faculty who wanted to split stipends to share expertise and build a bigger team to accomplish a specialized, cross-disciplinary project (1 team). Similarly, we funded a team of one Wofford faculty mentor, two HS teachers, and one Wofford student to work on a large, shared social studies curriculum (1 team).
- In June, each HIF team member received a packet with a welcome letter, suggested project timeline, and contact information for all teams.
- We plan an official kick-off dinner at Wofford’s Goodall Environmental Studies Center at Glendale Shoals on September 18, 2012.
Project leadership

- Proposal co-authors have determined the project can be carried out successfully with two project directors (not the initial 4 proposed) to allow for funding of more HIF teams.
- In a modification of our existing proposal, we propose to have a deputy co-director, selected from among interested faculty fellows, to work alongside the two co-directors each year. This post will be funded at half-stipend level: $1000.
- After the 2012-2013 cycle, Laura Barbas Rhoden will rotate out of the co-director position, the new co-director will cycle into the leadership role with Kaye Savage, and a new deputy co-director will join the team.
- Our plan for opening the co-director position creates the architecture for both maintaining success and encouraging fresh ideas. New leadership, drawn from the ground level of project work, will cycle into the co-director position, energize the program, and build capacity to sustain work throughout and beyond the funding cycle.
- By the end of the three-year grant cycle, we will have a well-qualified, experienced slate of leadership to sustain and enhance future collaborations among HS teachers, Wofford faculty, and students.