Congratulations to the winners of the Spring Francis 2020 Idea Box Contest! There were 66 suggestions submitted by 44 different faculty, staff, and students. Of the 47 total, 28 were submitted by faculty and staff, and 16 submitted by students. The University’s Planning Team selected the top five ideas through an anonymous voting survey based on strategic theme fit, potential impact, and feasibility to implement.

Amanda Drumm, Assistant Director of Marketing and Community Affairs

This winning suggestion falls under the “Francis the Collaborator” theme. It suggests a series of events during the year to “Celebrate Meaningful Franciscan Tradition Occasions” with the purpose of enhancing...
faculty, staff and student engagement as they all gain a deeper understanding of the Franciscan heritage and tradition by living it. These celebrations would include the October 4 Feast of St. Francis of Assisi; this could become the university’s signature event that students and staff would look forward to each year. Examples of activities could include embracing St. Francis’ love for the earth and animals by planting trees on campus, having pets brought to campus for an animal blessing, an activities fair on the campus mall, a peace walk, Peace Pledge, and Day of Reflection service activities. A second event would be during the Christmas Advent season to bring that spirit of Christmas to the University with staff and students working together to decorate campus and create a warm, festive atmosphere leading up to Christmas, including a Nativity scene. The third event would celebrate Earth Day the tie to love of creation and the universe by St. Francis; activities could be planned for students and staff including an earth day fair, planting trees, and signing a “Care for Creation” pledge.

**Dr. Arthur Remillard, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies**

This winning suggestion fits with the “Francis the Educator them to Build a strong academic culture by “Rebranding the General Education Curriculum.” We would launch an aggressive marketing campaign not re-write the curriculum but to re-brand it. This would lead to more buy-in from students and faculty by explaining the value of our general education courses. Rather than seeing General Education as a checklist, they would see the building blocks for becoming an educated person. We would find creative ways to send this important message by consulting with a professional advertising agency and developing a concrete plan to rewrite how students and faculty think of general education.

**Melita O’Donnell, Executive Assistant to the Provost**

This winning suggestion is to “Leverage our Franciscan and Catholic Heritage” fitting Francis the Collaborator theme. Our Franciscan values make us distinctive and special, and they resonate with our students, and their parents. The examples given include Renaming Padua Cart to Café Greccio. Francis of Assisi created the first manger scene in the city of Greccio, Italy; a full-size manger scene could be placed outside Padua to greet students and employees when they enter. The second suggestion is to make more references to Pope Francis on campus, because he chose his name from our patron Saint; with his picture at the entrance of Scotus Hall could be some text to tell the story of the Pope and his relation to St. Francis. We should also list the Bishop’s name under his photo. Another suggestion is to partner with St. Michael Church in Loretto when they hold their Saint’s Tour in October; it is held one weekend and is very popular; with help from the university, it could be extended to the weekends in the entire month of October; proceeds could then be split between St. Michael and as a fundraiser for the Dorothy Day Center. Another suggestion is to promote the Francis Walking tour of campus that was developed several years ago with Fr. Dan Sinisi, and then supplement that tour with a regional tour which includes Saint Francis University, St. Michael Church, and other treasures in our region where we have local churches with architectural and historical significance. Finally as a collaborative effort with local churches and Campus Ministry, we could offer a Summer Vacation Bible School for area children and charge a small fee, while utilizing our own student peer ministers to assist with the program. In all of these, we as Saint Francis University administration, faculty, staff, and students demonstrate our own commitment to Franciscan values.

**Heather Meck, Associate Vice President for Risk Management and Human Resources**

This winning suggestion is called “Francis Today,” which is a campus electronic a campus electronic communications system that provides for electronic submittal of announcements and events, resulting in a campus wide listing of announcements and events being sent via all email accounts daily similar to the current Newsflash but on a daily basis. This would effectively reduce the amount of daily “mass emails” and enhance University communications. Delegates from various areas would submit online announcements and events by a designated time each day that would then be disseminated the following day in one email. Events and announcements would also automatically appear on my.francis as an announcement or event. “Francis
Today” relates to the Strategic theme of Collaboration, through a solid and effective communication system with all constituents.

Dr. John Miko, Associate Professor of Business Administration

This suggestion is to develop a Saint Francis University smartphone application, or app, designed to serve as an information portal for current students, faculty, and staff. Much of the information provided on my.francis could also be conveniently delivered via a smartphone app including Campus events calendar, RAVE alerts, Athletics scores, phone and e-mail directory, campus map, Food services menus, Jenzabar data like Grades and Billing, Blackboard, and the schedule of classes. The app would be available in either Android or Apple operating systems and might be developed in-house by our computer science department. This suggestion fits with the Strategic Plan theme of Francis the Builder.