

PALS Mission Statement:

To cultivate a family of global learners in an interdisciplinary scientific environment where critical thinking and creativity inspire discovery and interaction.

PALS Goals:

- 1. Encourage and nurture students, including historically underrepresented groups, to pursue careers in science.**
- 2. Establish and maintain infrastructure and policies to accommodate the current and projected university enrollment.**
- 3. Facilitate collegiality among students, faculty, and staff through mutual trust and respect.**
- 4. Foster a quality educational experience.**
- 5. Create an intellectually stimulating environment.**
- 6. Provide leadership in science education and science literacy.**

PALS Mission Statement:

To cultivate a family of global learners in an interdisciplinary scientific environment where critical thinking and creativity inspire discovery and interaction.

- Inclusive of:

- Teaching
- Research
- Service
- Communities (academic, university, local, regional, national, and international)

PALS Goals:

1. Encourage and nurture students, including historically underrepresented groups, to pursue careers in science.

- Ties to mission:

- Cultivate families of learners
- Community interactions

- Possible objectives:

- Summer programs
- Outreach programs
- Integrating programs (including undergraduate research)
- Attract and fund graduate students at the national level

2. Establish and maintain infrastructure and policies to accommodate the current and projected university enrollment.

- Ties to mission:

- Cultivate families of learners
- Community interactions
- Creativity and inspiration of discovery

- Possible objectives:

- Growth targets for department programs
- Renewed financial and administrative support
- Increased faculty time to support excellence (workload release and policy)
- Research support, including graduate and undergraduate
- Adequate academic library
- Facilities: research space, teaching space, graduate student space, instrumentation and equipment for field and laboratory based work
- Secretarial and staff support
- Attract and fund graduate students at the national level

3. Facilitate collegiality among students, faculty, and staff through mutual trust and respect.

- Ties to mission:

- Cultivate families of learners
- Community interactions
- Creativity, critical thinking, and inspiration of discovery
- Interdisciplinary environment

- Possible objectives:

- Shared governance with active participation by all
- Enhance student/faculty interactions
- Graduate student representation on committees
- Graduate Student Association
- Undergraduate research

4. Foster a quality educational experience.

- Ties to mission:

- Cultivate families of learners
- Community interactions
- Creativity, critical thinking, and inspiration of discovery
- Interdisciplinary environment

- Possible objectives:

- Teacher development (faculty, TAs, science ed. students)
- Innovative and effective teaching methods (i.e. peer teaching, integration of technology and research, etc.)
- Retention of students through tracking and advising/mentoring
- Undergraduate research

5. Create an intellectually stimulating environment.

- Ties to mission:

- Cultivate families of learners
- Community interactions
- Creativity, critical thinking, and inspiration of discovery
- Interdisciplinary environment

- Possible objectives:

- Nurture an interdisciplinary research culture among students, faculty, and staff
- Lab rotation for incoming graduate students
- Resources to attend and present at national/international mtgs

- Weekly/biweekly seminars
- Modern library facilities
- Increased time (refer to objective under goal #2)
- Unique programs
- Attract and fund graduate students at the national level

6. Provide leadership in science education and science literacy.

- Ties to mission:

- Cultivate families of learners
- Community interactions
- Creativity, critical thinking, and inspiration of discovery

- Possible objectives:

- Supply the local community with accurate information via the media and other information sources
- Cultivate the talent base of South Texas via outreach and other community involvement strategies
- Provide equal access to high quality science education programs and experiences for all who seek to learn
- Support the science education efforts (including technology education) of K-12 schools and other education providers
- Cultivate collaborative efforts with and between formal and informal science educators
- Encourage the development of additional science education resources in South Texas
- Pursue the development and use of research based science curricula and methodology in PALS classes

Justification to faculty:

- Objectives can be written to be measurable
- Goals are tied to mission statement
- Simple mission statement that stays prominent in the minds of PALS personnel (should be all encompassing yet memorable)
- PALS mission statement is tied to university mission statement