

Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant Final Report

Project title “Native Now: Fall 2015 Native Heritage Celebrations”

Grant Recipients: Michael Wade, Scott Herron, Carrie Stermer, Andrea Lodholtz, Tori VanOeffelen & Elizabeth Nystrom

Date Project Started: September 1, 2015-November 23, 2015

Amount of Money Funded by the Mini-Grant 4,674.00

1. How was the grant used to address a diversity or inclusion related goal? This grant allowed the University to collaborate across the Fine Arts Gallery, the CLACS Office, an RSO (Circle of Tribal Nations), the OMSS, and Diversity and Inclusion Office to bring to Ferris diversity opportunities that were unique, highly attended, and demonstrated that FSU is committed to create environments for student learning that are inclusive and sensitive to diverse student populations. The Native Now events included 7 distinct events starting in early September and lasting until just before Thanksgiving Break. The diversity goals were realized when Ferris was able to engage both tribal and non-tribal students in ways we had not before, and included bringing both local and nationally recognized presenters to campus to engage with students, faculty and staff in meaning ways to educate and immerse participants in modern Native American culture, art, language, songs, and customs.
2. Describe the audience that was impacted by the grant’s implementation. Provide quantitative data, if available.

The audiences that were impacted by the grant include 1020 students and 510 non-students that took the time to visit the Fine Arts Gallery between September 1-26, 2015 to observe Matika Wilbur’s Project 562 documenting modern Native Americans across North America in their tribal and urban settings. A limited number (~100) of these guests interacted directly with Matika during one of her two Artist Talks (September 9 & 10, 2015) and the Artist Reception the evening of September 10th, 2015. Matika had a nice conversation with President Eisler, and took a photo with him and advisor Scott Herron during that visit. The audience was expanded when the Ferris Torch reporter Jennifer Corrie wrote an excellent article (<http://fsutorch.com/2015/09/15/matikas-story/>) in the September 16, 2015 edition. This article was picked up by the Huffington Post when Matika did an interview with one of their national reporters and chose to mention her recent visit to Ferris and linked our Torch article to their Post article (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/matika-wilbur-project-562-native-american-diversity_55f9b867e4b08820d916f812). After September wound down, the Native Now Celebration re-emerged in November with 4 events over 3 dates, including a Ghost Supper

feast meal, where 38 students and 70 non-students (108 total) participated in a culturally sensitive harvest feast meal at the West Campus Community Center, followed by a few hours of singing around a Native American ceremonial drum. Of the 70 non-FSU students, many were local Middle School students thanks to a Social Studies teacher who advertised and encouraged his students to participate to enhance their learning about Native Americans (he sang with us on the drum as well). The Torch also published a nice article (<http://fsutorch.com/2015/11/12/honoring-those-who-have-passed/>) about this event in their November 11-17, 2015 edition, expanding the impact and reach of our event further across campus. After these successful events, the grant helped support 2 birch bark rattle and medallion making workshops that had modest reach (21 participants) on November 12, 2015. The final event of this grant was the featured presentation A Native American Thanksgiving, which took place for the first time in a new location, the Rankin Atrium of the University Center. This event featured Native American leader and innovator Lee Sprague, who spoke, sang and educated an audience of 200+ (140+ students), followed by a catered Thanksgiving Meal that most of these 200 participants shared at no cost to them owing to the planning and awarding of this key grant. In conclusion, the impact of this grant on the audiences mentioned above, and some students I have yet to mention has been historic. We situated Ferris in the local and national conversation of what is Native American and who are modern Native Americans, this did result in Native American students who had remained in the background to become engaged in these events. We are currently recruiting some of them to hopefully take leadership positions in the Circle of Tribal Nations, but that remains to be seen.

3. Grant recipients are required to provide a short narrative that details the specific efforts each of the collaborators made to the implementation of the grant.

The Ferris Fine Art Gallery featured an exhibition titled "Project 562" by Matika Wilbur. "Project 562" is a beautiful collection of professional photographs by Ms. Wilbur. She has spent years traveling throughout the United States meeting and documenting the 562 registered tribes within the states. Her project addresses and works to remedy historical inaccuracies, and stereotypes in mass media. Matika believes her work aims to humanize the Native American race and to share stories that they want to be told. Matika is a Native American of the Swinomish and Tulalip Tribes and is a leading photographer exhibiting extensively throughout the United States. The efforts of the gallery included framing 22 pieces of art, providing organization for travel arrangements of the artist, two artist presentations and an opening reception. The gallery provided an exhibit newsletter, show cards, posters, Facebook posts, and news coverage from the local paper, The Pioneer, the student paper, The Torch from which the article was featured on Huffington Post as well as campus wide announcements and Ferris website press. Outreach included contacting the Zibwing Center in Mt. Pleasant, a regional Native American Museum. They shared the information with members and artists within their area. The gallery handled booking reservations for University Center facilities for the speaking engagement as well as catering for the opening reception, installation of the artwork, striking and packing the exhibit and shipping. The exhibition brought in over one thousand visitors to the gallery and onto the campus of Ferris State University. Over two hundred visitors attended the presentations and opening.

The Circle of Tribal Nations donated the materials and labor to construct a 6 x 4 x 8 foot tall cedar wood lodge for a multimedia and three-dimensional component to the Project 562 display in the gallery. This included donating a hand002Dmade dream catcher, making hundreds of tobacco ties (loose tobacco inside cloth used as a thank you gift), and setting up and tearing down the lodge. The Circle also introduced Matika with a gift and a song at her presentation, and hosted an invite only after party for Matika, her guest and students, faculty, and other community members at their advisors home. The Circle provided beverages, food, condiments, and place settings for the Ghost Supper (which had no food budget) out of our Huntington bank account. We also provided the fire wood, fire pit/bowl, and fire making materials. The Circle secured lab space for the birch bark workshops, and Circle advisor shared a song with his rattle to workshop participants. Lastly, for the Thanksgiving event, Circle provided display materials, a thanksgiving song from the advisor before the feast meal, and we provided the guest presenter a hand-made dream catcher and a Circle embroidered polo as a gift of appreciation.

The Circle Executive Board members created a proposed budget and application for the Finance Division of Student Government, and worked with the CLACS Office starting in Spring 2015, and presented their application in front of the Finance Division, and were awarded \$7,987.50 from the SAF fund. These funds were focused on the Matika Wilbur "Project 562" components of this

Native Now Celebration. This funding was key in leveraging the resources and high profile Native American artist and helped set the stage for successful November events. Our president presented an Evaluation (final report) to Student Government during their January 2016 meeting, completing the requirements of this funding stream.

The Multicultural Office provided design and printing of on-campus fliers, pluggers, and posters. They provided the staff to facilitate all the contracts except the one with Matika Wilbur (which Carrie Stermer and Scott Herron handled), and OMSS did a wonderful job in planning and contracting. OMSS had staff at each of the events in the Native Now celebration. OMSS provided the funding for the Thanksgiving presenter, Lee Sprague, as well as lodging for him at the Country Inn and Suites. They also provided a banner stand that the Circle has its vertical banner mounted on.

The Diversity Grant provided this collaborative group with the financial resources (managed by OMSS) to produce a 2 beautiful banners (one vertical and one horizontal). This grant paid for Thanksgiving Feast Meal that FSU Catering provided and was eaten completely by 200+ participants. The Diversity Grant paid for the Ghost Supper facilitators (gift cards) and the birch bark workshop instructor (contract).

4. What is your overall assessment of the project's impact on the Ferris community? How did this impact compare to what you expected?

Our assessment of the overall impact on the FSU community is that this grant (along with the SAF Grant our students were awarded from Student Government) allowed Ferris to celebrate and integrate Native American culture, art, history, music, and people into the campus in a more meaningful and extensive way than our campus has done in the recent past. We honestly were humbled and impressed by the turnout from across the Ferris and Big Rapids communities for each of the events. Rarely have diversity events that this group of grantees have organized (individually or collectively) seen the numbers of students, faculty/staff/administrators, and Big Rapids families (school age children and parents) as well as adults who regularly attend Ferris events. Each of the events had opportunities for participants to directly engage individually and collectively with the presenters, which really had an impact. For example, two Native American students who had never been involved with Circle attended the Ghost Supper. When the guest facilitators (Bill and Nancy Fuchs) sang songs that these two student's own grandfather had created and passed onto the facilitators, it emotionally floored the student, Tori McGeshick and her cousin. These students took the opportunity to exchange contact information with the facilitators. Circle advisor Scott Herron and his son Aden happened to be invited to a Native American sweat lodge ceremony later that month (November) and serendipitously, Tori and her cousin Reign had made the drive over to Newaygo and shared in the ceremony and feast meal with us all. This grant allowed a start to the relationship building that will be necessary if FSU is going to sustain relationships with individuals or communities. Also, to watch over 70 Big Rapids middle school students and their parents turn out to the Ghost Supper, share in food, the sacred fire we started, and sit down at the ceremonial drum and learn how Native Americans actually

talk, sing, and share music has impacts we might never fully realize. These young minds have been filled with negative stereotypes of Native Americans, so the opportunity to challenge those with positive experiences might change the way future college students at FSU and future leaders think and act. Lastly, the audience at the Thanksgiving Event included a large group of visiting faculty from China. Recognizing this opportunity, presenter Lee Sprague took the time to explain the culture in ways these guests from a very distant land with very a different language could appreciate and understand. He took the time to acknowledge these guests, share a song for them, and answer questions they along with many other FSU students had about modern Native American culture and Lee’s personal journey.

5. Present a final budget including all funds received and spent related to the project, with special focus on the funds received via the Diversity Mini-grant.

Budget Overview			
	Requested Grant Funds Proposed Spent	Funding from other sources Proposed Spent	TOTAL BUDGET Proposed Spent
STIPEND	0.00	0.00	0.00
HONORARIA	1,100.00 1,100.00	4,500.00 4,500.00	5,600.00 5,600.00
TRAVEL	74.00 0.00	354.00 253.89	428.00 253.89
FOOD	1300.00	126.00	1426.00

	1588.50	559.00	2147.50
RENTALS	0.00	150.00	150.00
	0.00	100.00	100.00
PRINTING & DUPLICATING	0.00	545.00	545.00
	0.00	532.48	532.48
PROMOTION	0.00	902.50	902.50
	0.00	737.00	737.00
SUPPLIES & POSTAGE	0.00	3000.00	3000.00
	0.00	3239.36	3239.36
RESOURCE MATERIALS	2200.00	0.00	2200.00
	2230.50	0.00	2230.50
ASSESSMENT TOOLS	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00
OTHER	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	\$4,674.00	\$9,577.50	\$14,251.50
	\$4,919.00	\$9,921.73	\$14,840.73

Final Itemized Budget Expenses Fall 2015

Fall 2015 Native American Heritage Celebrations

Printing

Posters and pluggers for 4 events $82.75+101+200=$ \$383.75 OMSS

500 show cards for Project 562 event + Gallery newsletter \$148.73 SAF

Total Anticipated: \$545.00

Event Total Spent: \$532.48

Advertising

1 half page Torch ad & 1 Pioneer ad- Matika Wilber Project 562 = \$737 SAF

Total Anticipated: \$902.50

Event Total Spent: \$737.00

Equipment Purchase

22 frames & glass for the photos in the Project 562 Exhibit = \$2,230.50 SAF

Total Anticipated: \$2,200.00

Event Total Spent: \$2,230.50

Equipment Rental

None

Total: \$0.00

Building Rental

2 University Center UCB Room 202 for Matika Wilber presentation 2(\$50) = \$100 Gallery

Total Anticipated: \$150.00

Event Total Spent: \$100.00

Personal Service Fee

Matika Wilber Presentation and Travel for Project 562	\$4000	SAF	
Thanksgiving Teaching Native American Presenter	\$500	OMSS	
Ghost supper facilitator and presenter	\$500	Diversity Grant	
Birch Bark Workshops (2), Steven N. Perry	\$600	Diversity Grant	
			Total Anticipated: \$5,600.00
			Event Total Spent: \$5,600.00

Hospitality

FSU Catering bill -serving 150 people Thanksgiving Dinner	\$1588.50	Diversity Grant	
Catering bill for Artist Reception-Matika Wilber's	\$559.00	SAF	
			Total Anticipated: \$1,426.00
			Event Total Spent: \$2,147.50

Lodging

2 nights at Holiday Inn for Matika Wilber	\$157.50	SAF	
1 night at Country Inn and Suites for Thanksgiving Event	\$96.39	OMSS	
			Total Anticipated: \$308.00
			Event Total Spent: \$253.89

Transportation

2 round trips to the airport – Matika Wilber (Not used, artist
drove personal vehicle from Maine to Michigan)

\$0 SAF

Total Anticipated: \$150.00

Event Total Spent: \$0

Other Expenses

Shipping the Project 562 Collection back to Seattle + Insurance

\$739.36 SAF

Gallery Funds to cover remaining costs of Project 562

\$2,500.00 Gallery

Total Anticipated: \$3,000.00

Event Total Spent: \$3,239.36

Anticipated Grand Total: \$14,281.50

Actual Grand Total Spent: \$14,840.23

Primary Grant Recipient's Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. G. H.', written on a white background. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Date June 28, 2017