

Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant Final Report

Project title - Russian - American Chemistry Faculty Experience

Grant Recipients - Lilia Caserta, Olga Zinnurova, Elena Gavrilova

Date Project Started - April, 16, 2015

Amount of Money Funded by the Mini-Grant - \$4,954.00

1. How was the grant used to address a diversity or inclusion related goal? The Grant allowed Russian Faculty to create learning opportunities for Ferris State University students, faculty and staff through multiple classroom visitations, three presentations by Professor Olga Zinnurova and Professor Elena Gavrilova, and participation in Shakespeare festival. Open and interactive dialogue among Russian faculty and American students and faculty established a sense of mutual respect, better cultural understanding, and a respectful practices of ethical values.
2. Describe the audience that was impacted by the grant's implementation. Provide quantitative data, if available.

Professor Olga Zinnurova and Professor Elena Gavrilova interacted with Ferris students and faculty through three scheduled campus-wide presentations on "Russian Higher Education System", "Professional Women in Science in Russia" and "Russian University System."

Russian guests visited a total of nine classrooms, labs, and student presentations. They participated in two discussions led by physical science department, "What do we do next?" on April 28th, 2015 and teaching strategies on April 29th, 2015.

They are actively conversed with students and Faculty during class time by asking questions, making comments and discussing outcomes.

Also, Professor Gavrilova and Professor Zinnurova went to the history of Ferris museum, the Jim Crow museum, and toured the Ferris campus to

better understand the structure of Ferris State University and its student community.

We were under budget with awarded grant money because we use private housing of Lilia Caserta to avoid extra spending, also only two Russian professors were able to come instead of the originally planned three. Professor Zhuravleva M. wasn't able to come because of a family emergency. Professor Zinnurova and Professor Gavrilova completed an extra workload of three visitors, so we were able to upgrade their honorariums to \$1,450.00 instead of the planned \$1,000.00 for all the extra work. Most of the meals were working lunches with Faculty from Physical Science Department, and thanks to David Frank half of the meals were paid for by Physical Science budget. David Frank arranged a visit to Traverse City for Russian visitors on his free time and expense. The Reception and printing costs were covered by the Office of International Education. Farewell dinner was paid by Lilia Caserta and was hosted at her house for all Faculty to come. This created an opportunity to have an American science textbook drive for Kazan National Research Technological University. Thanks to the generosity of our science Faculty we collected 11 boxes of modern textbooks and shipped them to Russia. Professor Gavrilova and Professor Zinnurova were overwhelmed with the generosity and enthusiasm of Ferris State University. This unplanned activity created extra costs of \$376.73 which received approval from David Pilgrim to be covered with additional grant money.

To establish successful future partnership, Professor Zinnurova and Professor Gavrilova met with Vice President Blake and agreed on several projects which will allow both universities to continue work together. (See attachment of scheduled events).

As right now Russian University sign the proposed contract and submitted it to Ferris State University President for signature.

It is extremely important during present time of restrain political relations between Russia and USA to have active and positive exchange and diverse

communications. We as Americans learn to understand Russian value system and find a lot of similarities to make us look on our two countries with optimism and find opportunities for future collaboration.

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.

Professor Lilia Caserta organized the visit and provided successful communication assistance during American-Russian faculty experience program. She hosted the Russian visitors and took responsibility to schedule their campus tour, museum visits, meals, and transportation.

Professor Dave Frank successfully organized classroom visitations, chemistry faculty support during the two week program, organized their day trip to Traverse City, MI, and led favorable discussion on future collaborations.

Professor Piram Prakasam organized the reception through the Office of International Education on April 24th, 2015. Unfortunately, we weren't able to finalize a written agreement of future collaboration between universities due to time constraints. However, with support of Vice President Paul Blake such agreement is underway.

Professor Dan Adsmond had the Russian visitors sit in on his lectures and actively demonstrated his teaching methods, he was proactively involved in discussion of future collaboration.

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

Through the series of discussions and open-table sessions Ferris State University and Kazan National Chemical Technological Research University were able to reach a verbal agreement of future collaboration in faculty-student exchange, mutual research projects, and publications. Ferris physical science faculty are invited to participate in a science conference in Kazan in October 2015. Vice President Paul Blake was impressed with the proactive attitude of the Russian professors and supported future cultural and academic collaboration. Both Russian guests were impressed with the enthusiasm of the Ferris faculty and welcoming atmosphere for the duration of their visit. They were excited to interact with Ferris students during their

class visitations and presentations. The Russian visitors had the opportunity to be guest lecturers in a few classes (Professor Adsmond, Professor Balanda, and Professor Di Raddo) and Ferris students got to experience first-hand the Russian teaching styles and methods.

During the visit the Russian professors demonstrated a strong desire to adopt similar textbooks as the American colleagues for their course work. Department Head David Frank kindly responded by collecting unwanted textbooks from the Ferris physical science faculty and we were able to use the grant funds to partially cover the shipping costs of 11 boxes of textbooks. This act of generosity will help to establish a small American textbook library within the Kazan National Chemistry Technological Research University.

4. 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.

Primary Grant Recipient's Signature _____

Date _____

D11147

Russian Mini Grant - Lilia Caserta

\$4,954.00

Honorarium - Leonidovna	\$1,450.00
Honorarium - Vasirevna	\$1,450.00
Airport milage	\$151.36
4/23 Panera	\$27.93
4/22 Between the Chapters	\$2.70
4/22 Nawals	\$49.77
New York Hotel	\$346.61
4/23 Panera	\$10.78
4/24 Panera	\$5.67
4/24 FSU Dining	\$7.15
4/26 Applebees	\$52.64
4/24 Panera	\$7.38
4/27 Panera	\$6.02
4/27 Panera	\$(0.36)
4/28 Panera	\$41.28
4/28/15 shipping for books	\$1,431.80
4/29/2015 shipping for books	\$290.00

\$5,330.73

Balance

\$(376.73)