

**Project Title:** *Russian- American Chemistry Faculty Experience*

**List the members of the team and indicate their roles on the project. One member should be identified as Team Leader.**

1 (required): Lilia Caserta      Role on team: Team Leader/Translator

2 (required): Dan Adsmond      Role on team: Participant

3 (required): Tracy Bush      Role on team: Participant

4 (optional): David Frank      Role on team: Organizer and Participant

5 (optional): Piram Prakasam      Role on team: Participant  
Department or Unit: College of Art and Science, Office of International Education

**Contact Information for Team Leader:**

[Casertal@ferris.edu](mailto:Casertal@ferris.edu), ASC 3073, 591-3072

## **II. Event Title: Russian American Chemistry Faculty Experience**

### **III. Specific Core value, strategic initiative or goal related to diversity**

*University strategic plan:*

Learning and Excellence (High quality Academic Programming)

Collaboration, Diversity (Cultural and Global Engagement)

*Diversity:*

Create a University that is welcoming to diverse population

### **Project Summary/ Project Narrative:**

In October 2014 a group of faculty members including: David Frank, Daniel Adsmond, and Lilia Caserta were invited to participate in international science conference in Kazan, Russia by Kazan National Research Technological University. As a result of various presentations and meetings we established friendly communication among Kazan National Research Technological University and Ferris State University. Three chemistry faculty members from Russia expressed their desire to visit Ferris State University to learn about American higher educational system and modern methods of teaching science courses. They will be participating in various question and answer sessions and the spring international festival. Also, they will be presenting topics on Russian higher educational system and modern Russian student population. Russian faculty members will visit classrooms within the College of Arts and Science. They will interact with Ferris faculty, administration, and students to teach and learn about mutual goals and future projects.

During the spring semester of 2015, we would like to make concrete connections between the two universities with practical plans of future joining projects, publications, and conferences. As a long term goal we see this project as developing a successful faculty and student exchange program.

The United States and Russia are two leading countries in world politics, economics, and education. We focus not only on differences, but also similarities among the two countries. We can find comparable values, mutual goals, and traditions. Exposing various students to Russian culture will increase global element of higher education, make our students citizens of the world, and allow them to learn firsthand about the international community. Increasing diversity in Ferris students through active learning will shape them into global citizens of the future.

We plan to have three major presentations by Russian faculty for Ferris State students, of various round table conversations with faculty members and series of meetings with university administration. The purpose of our scheduled activities is to expose American students and faculty members to Russian culture firsthand, and uncensored points of view on educational, political, and economical systems of two countries. Also it will allow Russian faculty to learn non-traditional methods of teaching science courses at Ferris State University, and incorporate their knowledge into Russian teaching practices.

The success of the project will be measured by a series of surveys, discussions, and future publications. As a long term goal, we see this task result in a faculty and student exchange program between the two universities, sharing teaching and learning methods, and a multi-level collaboration.

Having the presence of Russian faculty and students on Ferris' campus will increase our diversity, bring international presence, and multi-cultural awareness.

- a. Event Narrative The project reflects Ferris State university commitment to diversity and inclusion

Support of University's Strategic Plan:

The University's strategic plan calls for a learning environment for "cultural and global exposure, understanding, and opportunity".

We envision our project as a part of integrative education at Ferris State University. The joint collaboration between Russian chemistry faculty members and Ferris State chemistry faculty will assist in improving Ferris State University's vision of continued intellectual development and increasing *diversity, ethical community, excellence, learning and opportunity*.

Exposure to and understanding of Eastern European cultures, specifically Russian culture, are limited on the Big Rapids campus at Ferris State University. Currently, Ferris offers only one course in Russian language, two courses in Russian history, and we only have one Russian international student in the entire international student community. Therefore, by allowing Ferris to have the experience of having Russian faculty at the Big Rapids campus will provide an opportunity for faculty and students to learn firsthand about the present political and economic situations in Russia, an understanding of the Russian higher educational system through a series of presentations, question and answer sessions, and open forum discussions. Also, Russian faculty expressed desire to participate in the International Festival in April of 2015. This participation will also bring an interactive educational element to Russian cultural understanding as part of University effort towards *global exposure and understanding*.

Professor Lilia Caserta will be organizing the visit and providing communication assistance and translation from Russian to English and vice versa. Professor Caserta will also be responsible for creating effective collaboration between different departments in the College of Arts and Sciences and Russian faculty, which will contribute to Ferris State’s core value of *building partnerships with students, alumni, business and industry, faculty and the community that the University serves*.

As a part of *creating ethical community* at Ferris State University, we will include visits to Russian history class with opportunities to discuss current Russian situations (e.g., the Russian-Ukrainian crisis). Professor Tracy Busch will moderate discussions and evaluate results of student-faculty interaction.

Professor Dave Frank is responsible for scheduling the series of classroom and laboratory visitations. He will also be responsible for assisting Russian faculty with learning new methods of teaching sciences courses at the tertiary level. Professor Frank has also committed to creating a series of question and answer modules between Ferris faculty and administrations and Russian visitors, which will allow us to address our learning core values by *developing critical thinking, exercising active learning, fostering responsibly and the desire for lifelong pursuit of diverse, ethically and culturally relevant knowledge (Excellence and Learning)*.

The Ferris State University International Office is responsible for introducing the Russian faculty to the main Ferris State campus and for general orientation activities. Also, Professor Prakasam will discuss future recruitment of Russian students and the possibility of an exchange program between Ferris State University and various Russian universities.

**b. Support of Diversity Plan**

Russian – American chemistry faculty experience supported by *Dialogue Ferris Initiative*. It will create learning opportunities that are “are inclusive of and sensitive to a diverse student population.” This goal will be achieved through campus wide presentations by Russian faculty. The academic lectures and student discussions will allow open and honest dialogue on Russian – American political and educational relationship. The purpose of Russian – American chemistry faculty experience is to promote and sustain a sense of belonging and *respectful practices of ethical values, national origin, and political beliefs*.

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Assessment</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Create successful learning environment for Ferris students and faculty.</li> <li>b. Expose Ferris students to Eastern European culture.</li> <li>c. Successful collaboration inside and outside of classroom.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Survey at panel discussion.</li> <li>b. Survey after campus wide presentation.</li> <li>c. Future publications and projects planned.</li> </ul>

**c. A statement on how the event relates to the curriculum or a specific discipline, if appropriate.**

Russian – American chemistry faculty experience

Professor Peter Balanda, Mark Thompson, Charles Bacon, Mary Bacon, and Dan Adsmond made a commitment to include Russian faculty members in their coursework for the spring semester 2015. The faculty members will visit with the respective faculty members' classrooms and labs, guest teach, and participate in student research projects and evaluations. We are looking for *collaboration of theory and practice inside and outside the classroom (Learning)*.

We will measure the success of this collaboration via examination of future mirrored teaching of the chemistry courses, joint publications, and through possible faculty-student exchange.

**d. Timeline: See Attachment**

**e. Description of the target audience, including the estimated number of participants.**

The target audience for the project is the entire Ferris State University community. Three main presentations by Russian faculty are campus-wide and open to the student body and public. Visits from Russian faculty in science laboratories and lectures will impact about 75-100 students per course. Also the Ferris community will gain exposure to the Russian culture through participation in the international festival.

**f. The expected impact that the event will have on Ferris.**

Russian – American chemistry faculty experience will open discussion to Ferris campus about Russian political, educational, and economical systems. The event will allow Ferris students to learn through active participation in the classroom diversity and inclusion.

Considering the sensitive political relations between the USA and Russia, it's critical for students to analyze media propaganda, and break stereotypes through firsthand communication and collaboration. It's essential for young adults to have the opportunity to be exposed to global culture as part of the college experience. Understanding the limited ability of Ferris students for international travel, it's important for the university to support international projects on campus as part of our diversity plan.

**VI. Budget.**

- a. Anticipated expenses.**
- b.** The honorarium is calculated for each Russian faculty (1,000\$ each presenter) for campus wide presentations, round table discussions, and International festival.
- c.** The travelling expenses are based on the cost for Chicago trip because of arrival and departure of Russian Faculty from and to Chicago instead of Grand Rapids.
- d.** Printing expenses for posters and flyers.
- e.** Food and lodging will be cover by Russian Faculty.
- f.** Total amount requested from Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant is 4.954.00 dollars

## Budget Overview

	<b>Requested Grant Funds</b>	<b>Funding from other sources</b>	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>
<b>STIPEND</b>			
<b>HONORARIA</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>		
<b>TRAVEL</b>	<b>1,754.00</b>	<b>562.80</b>	
<b>FOOD</b>		<b>1,176.00</b>	
<b>RENTALS</b>			
<b>PRINTING &amp; DUPLICATING</b>	<b>150.00</b>		
<b>PROMOTION</b>			
<b>SUPPLIES &amp; POSTAGE</b>			
<b>RESOURCE MATERIALS</b>			

<b>ASSESSMENT TOOLS</b>			
<b>OTHER</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,954.00\$</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>6,682.80\$</b>

**Budget**  
**(See Attachment)**

**Attachments:**  
**Agenda/Itinerary**  
**Team Member Signature Page**

**Final Report.**

A final report is required. Failure to submit the final report will exempt all team members from future mini-grant funding.

Expected completion date: May 1, 2015

The final report is due 90 days after the expected completion date. Final reports should be submitted to the Diversity and Inclusion Office.

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# Russian American Chemistry Faculty Experience

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April 13-27, 2015

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Kayla Bodary  
International Program & Event  
Coordinator

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Monday, April 13, 2015

2:00PM	Arrive to Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids, MI
2:30PM	Russian Faculty greeted by Ferris State University Representative
4:00PM	Arrive to Big Rapids & check into hotel room at Holiday Inn
5:00PM	Welcome Reception at Ferris State University Office of International Education
7:00PM	Dinner

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

7:00AM	Breakfast
8:30AM	Tour of Ferris State University, Big Rapids Campus
11:30AM	Lunch at The Rock at Ferris State University
1:00PM	Welcome Reception at Ferris State University College of Arts & Sciences
3:00PM	Partner with FSU Chemistry Faculty Member
4:30PM	Chemistry Class with FSU Chemistry Faculty
6:00PM	Dinner with David Frank and Lilia Caserta

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

8:00AM	Breakfast
9:00AM	Speak at Lilia Caserta's class
10:00AM	Tour Ferris State University Automotive
12:00PM	Lunch
1:00PM	Tour Ferris State University University Center
3:00PM	Media Broadcasting Interview
4:00PM	Participate in GET REAL! University Event
6:00PM	Dinner

Thursday, April 16, 2015

8:00AM	Breakfast
9:00AM	Tour of Big Rapids
12:00PM	Lunch
1:00PM	Welcome Reception at Office of Multicultural Student Services
5:00PM	Dinner
8:30PM	FSU Jazz Band Spring Concert

Friday, April 17, 2015

8:00AM	Breakfast
9:00AM	Present at International History Class with Tracey Bush
10:00AM	Present at Chemistry 100 Level
11:00AM	Present at Chemistry 200 Level
12:00PM	Lunch
1:00PM	Meet with Honors Peer Mentoring Program
2:00PM	Present to FSU Emeriti
4:00PM	Meet with students participating in 2015 Russian Study Abroad Trip
6:00PM	Dinner

Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

8:00AM	Breakfast
9:00AM	The Big Event
12:00PM	Lunch
1:00PM	The Big Event
6:00PM	Dinner

Faculty Staff Diversity Mini-Grant Application. Electronic submission is preferred. Please include a signature page signed by each team member.

Project Title (up to 25 words)

Russian - American Chemistry Faculty Experience

List the members of the team and indicate their roles on the project. One member should be identified as Team Leader.

- 1 (required) Lilia Caserta Role on team: team leader/translator
- 2 (required) Dan Adsmund Role on team: participant
- 3 (required) Gruy n Busch Role on team: participant
- 4 (optional) David Frank Role on team: organizer & participant
- 5 (optional) PIRAM PRAKASAM Role on team: participant

Add additional lines as necessary to list all team members

Contact Information for Team Leader:

casertala@ferris.edu, ASC 3072, 5913072

Project Summary (150-200 words). If the application is approved the project summary will be posted on the Diversity and Inclusion Office website.