

Faculty Staff Diversity Mini-Grant Application. Electronic submission is required. A signature page signed by each team member is required; please include a scanned/digitized copy with your submission or send the signature page separately to the Diversity and Inclusion Office.

Project Title: Understanding and Respecting Different Faiths

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

- 1 (required) __Mike Mendenhall____ Role on team: ____Team Leader_____
- 2 (required) __Dr. Adnan Dakkuri____ Role on team: ____Advisor_____
- 3 (required) __David White_____ Role on team: ____Member_____
- 4 (optional) _____ Role on team: _____
- 5 (optional) _____ Role on team: _____

Add additional lines as necessary to list all team members

Contact Information for Team Leader:

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Project Summary/Abstract If the application is approved the project summary will be posted on the Diversity and Inclusion Office website.

Our project, titled “Understanding and Respecting Different Faiths,” has the goal of bringing awareness about Islam and the Muslim people to students who attend. Many of our graduates will go on to serve in many diverse communities so it is important that we as a University provide opportunities for students to gain a better understanding. Students who attend this

event will have the opportunity to visit 2 mosques in Grand Rapids, MI and learn about the Islam faith.

Project Narrative. Please be Concise. Structure your narrative as follows. Do not omit any section.

1. Discuss the need for this project;

Students at Ferris should be given as many opportunities as possible to gain a better understanding about people they may have never had an opportunity to learn about. Our graduates will go on to serve and live in communities that may be unlike the communities they grew up in and any experience we can provide them to will be invaluable. One of these experiences that we believe is important for our students to experience is the Islam faith. Specifically, we want students to be able to listen to and ask questions about the faith as well as to gain an understanding of the Muslim people. This trip will fulfill this need by taking students to 2 mosques and provide them with the experience of being able to see a mosque and what prayer looks like in the Islam faith as well as be able to ask questions about it. We believe that students who are exposed to this experience will walk away with an understanding and appreciation of the Islam faith and those who practice it.

2. Provide a detailed description of the project, including how it will be implemented and the specific roles of each member of the team;

Dr. Dakkuri, Professor White and I will advertise the project through class visits around campus as well as through an interview with the Ferris State University "Torch." We will also discuss the trip with the Senate Diversity and Inclusion committee so that they may pass the trip along to their respective colleges. During the end of October or the beginning of November 2019, we will take off from Ferris State University in Big Rapids at approximately 10am and travel by Ferris Charter bus to the At-Tawheed Mosque located at 3357 E. Paris Ave SE in Grand Rapids, MI. While in route to the mosque, students will complete a questionnaire which will ask about their knowledge and experience with the Islam faith. At the mosque, students will have an open dialogue with Muslim Professionals about the religion and its followers. Students will also have an opportunity to witness the rituals of the followers who come and worship. Following the prayer and open dialogue, a Middle Eastern lunch, including baklava will be provided to the students. Students will then go next door to the ICC Behar Bosnian Mosque located at 3425 E. Paris Ave SE in Grand Rapids, MI. On the way back to Big Rapids, students will complete a questionnaire about what they have learned and how they think this visit will benefit them in their lives and career. We will return to the Big Rapids campus at approximately 4pm.

3. Provide the timeline for the project. Be sure to specify at what point the grant will be considered complete. Final Report is due within 3 months after completion;

Our first trip to the mosques will be toward the end of the 2019 fall semester. The second trip will take place toward the end of the 2020 fall semester. The grant will be completed at the end of the second trip (November 2020). The final report will be completed and submitted by January of 2020.

4. Describe the target audience and indicate how many participants are expected. Discuss how the project will be publicized and promoted and, if appropriate, how participants will be selected.

The target audience for this project will be approximately 80 students total for both trips to the mosques. Each trip will be open to any students across campus, however I (Mike Mendenhall) will make an extra effort to promote this event to criminal justice students as I believe this trip will be beneficial to them especially when they begin their careers in the criminal justice field. My plan is to also talk with members of *The Torch* to talk about the trip and its benefits for students. We don't anticipate that there will be more students than room on the bus, however in the case there are, students who are closer to finishing their degree at Ferris State University will be given priority since they may not have an opportunity again. If there are more students wanting to go than there is room on the bus, those students who are not able to go on the first trip will be given priority on the trip the following year.

5. Discuss specifically how the project relates to the current Ferris State University Diversity and Inclusion Plan;

The first goal of the Diversity and Inclusion Plan for 2016-2021 is to "create a University that is respectful of differences and civil toward people who are different." Our project's aim is to help students learn and understand a faith that they may not have knowledge of. We believe that this project will allow students to learn about a religion they may not have any knowledge about and use that to respectfully engage in conversations with other students in and out of the classroom. Goal number five of the plan is to "improve inclusivity by incorporating diversity and inclusion in significant ways in teaching, learning, and research." We believe that this project will provide a learning opportunity for students who may otherwise not visit a mosque on their own and help students be more open to the beliefs of others. I also believe that a project like this will help me as a faculty member to create group discussions for my criminal justice students, which puts them into a scenario that they must work through.

Finally, I believe that this project will meet the sixth goal, which is to "build upon existing partnerships and create new partnerships that enhance the University's commitment to and work with diverse populations." Dr. Dakkuri started this project in 2014 and asked that I help to continue it. The partnership with both mosques that Dr. Dakkuri began will help build trust between them and our University. This partnership will be beneficial to students at Ferris because it will keep both dialogue and opportunities open for both parties.

6. List at least 3 measurable outcomes for this project/event. For each outcome, identify how it is connected with the Ferris State University Diversity and Inclusion Plan. Include a description of how the outcome will be assessed.

We will administer a pre and post-test during the day long excursion to the mosque. The three measurable outcomes that we will look at will be;

1. Students will gain an understanding of the Islamic faith, specifically some of the beliefs of its followers. (This outcome is connected to Goal 5 of the Diversity and Inclusion plan)

2. Students will have a more diverse outlook, specifically within religion, and be able to graduate with an idea of those that may have different beliefs than their own. (This outcome is connected to Goal 3 of the Diversity and Inclusion Plan).
3. Students will begin to create meaningful relationships with those from the At-Tawheed mosque that we will be visiting. (This outcome is connected to Goal 6 of the Diversity and Inclusion Plan).

The pre-test will gain a better understanding of student's prior knowledge of the Islamic faith as well as the Muslim people. The post test will help us understand what students got out of the experience of learning about Islam and the Muslim people who are followers of the religion. We also want to ask students how they believe the experience may or may not help them in their future careers. The information provided to us during the pre and post-test will be included in the final report of the mini-grant. The questionnaire is attached.

Budget and budget Justification. Use the attached budget form. Required components are:

1. Itemized list of expenses with a brief explanation of each;
2. Itemized list of funds anticipated from other sources;
3. Amount requested from the Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant.

See the Mini Grant Rubric for additional guidance. If required components of the grant are missing, the grant will be returned.

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: __January 2020_____

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

Budget Overview

	Requested Grant Funds	Funding from other sources	TOTAL BUDGET
STIPEND			
HONORARIA			
TRAVEL			
FOOD	<p>\$800.00</p> <p>(80 students X \$10.00 per lunch)</p>		\$800.00
RENTALS	<p>Nov. 2019</p> <p>Bus—\$378.00 plus approx. \$56.70 (\$3.78 per mile over 100 miles)</p> <p>Nov. 2020</p> <p>Bus—\$378.00 plus approx.</p>		\$869.40

	\$56.70 (\$3.78 per mile over 100 miles)		
PRINTING & DUPLICATING	\$100.00 Handouts and pre and post test surveys		\$100.00
PROMOTION			
SUPPLIES & POSTAGE			
RESOURCE MATERIALS			
ASSESSMENT TOOLS			
OTHER			
TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$1,769.40