

Revised September 5, 2012

Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant Final Report

Project title: Using Our Skills to Help countries in Need: Training African Rats as Life-savers in Africa

Grant Recipients: Dr. Jeffrey L. Nagelbush, Dr. Janice Weaver, and Dr. Connie Meinholdt

Date Project Started April 11, 2011

Amount of Money Funded by the Mini-Grant \$1180.00

1. How was the grant used to address a diversity or inclusion related goal?

The primary diversity goal addressed by this grant was the goal of infusing diversity into the curriculum. Dr. Alan Poling, our speaker, demonstrated how the material we teach in our psychology classes can be used to help solve some of the problems that African countries are facing. Specifically, he showed how, the techniques of learning taught in our classes could be used to train animals to find buried land mines so that they can be disarmed. His talk also provided our students with information as to the types of problems poor African countries are facing.

2. Describe the audience that was impacted by the grant's implementation. Provide quantitative data, if available.

Close to 200 hundred people attended Dr. Poling's talk. We handed out a brief questionnaire and 143 were returned. Of the 143 that were returned, 126 were students, 5 were FSU faculty or staff and 12 were community members. On the questionnaire 5 questions were asked with responses ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The results were as follows:

1. Information about how psychology can be applied to help people in need was discussed in this event (average rating was 4.6).
2. Important questions about the needs of people in countries who have experienced war were discussed at this event (average rating, 4.5).
3. I learned something new as a result of this event (average rating, 4.8).
4. I am glad I chose to attend this event (average rating, 4.6).
5. I felt safe to express myself during this event (average rating, 4.0).

In addition, we asked to additional comments. Almost all of the comments were positive (and available by request). The only consistent negative comments concerned the fact that the room was too small, people were sitting on the floor.

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.

Dr. Nagelbush had the original idea, contacted Dr. Poling and wrote the first draft of the application. Drs. Meinholdt and Weaver reviewed the application and helped put it into final form. Dr. Meinholdt arranged to catering to provide food for after Dr. Poling's talk.

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

We believe that the grant was extremely successful in getting our students both to appreciate the value of the material we teach in our classes and to understand how this material can be used to help solve real-world problems in other parts of the world. In addition, the project helped the Ferris community become aware of the scope of the after war problems that many countries face. Finally, the project allowed some of our majors to talk to Dr. Poling about psychology as well as his work and the program and Western Michigan University. We believe that the program actually exceeded our expectations. Many students attended and most really enjoyed and learned from the experience.

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.

_Dr. Poling was paid \$610.16 for his honoraria and travel expenses. Lodging was about \$150 and food and meals was about \$400. We have been unable to get the exact figures for anything but what Dr. Poling was given. These are our best estimates.

Primary Grant Recipient's Signature

Dr. Jeffrey T. Nagelbush

Date

11/29/12