

Ferris State University

Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant Application

I. Identification

Name of Primary Applicant: Bonnie Wright

Members of Team: Scott Heron and the Registered Student Organization "Circle of Tribal Nations"

Department or Unit: Social Sciences & Biology

Campus Address: College of Arts and Sciences, 820 Campus Drive, ASC 2180, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Telephone: Office of Social Sciences; 231 591 2737, Dr. Wright's Cell Phone: 616-773-0062

E-mail address: wrightb3@Ferris.edu

II. Event Title

"Imaginary Indians" as an Artifact of Power

III. Specific core value, strategic initiative, or goal related to diversity that the event will address.

We propose to bring an exhibit of artifacts, collected by Brian Baker of California State University Sacramento, symbolically representing white America's historic-symbolic construction of Native Americans. Dr. Baker has agreed to guest lecture, offer a public presentation, and participate in a faculty-student dialogue that will be used in the construction of a panel to accompany the existing display of objects portraying Native people outside the Jim Crow Museum. *This proposal will further Ferris State University's strategic goal of creating environments for student learning that are inclusive of and sensitive to a diverse student populations.* Students and faculty will have the opportunity to better understand American cultural depictions of indigenous people, deconstruct these images, and finally participate in education of future students.

IV. Abstract (150-200 word, use additional paper if necessary). If the application is approved the abstract will be posted on the Diversity and Inclusion Office website.

"Imaginary Indians" as an Artifact of Power is an exhibit of over 150 artifacts representing the American Indian as an imaginary figure existing in the realm of popular culture. These fictionalized and commercialized representations steal the identity and mock Native American cultures, replacing the historical with something that never existed. The exhibit highlights themes of erasure, invisibility, the myth of discovery, colonialism, the fantasy "Indian in a Cupboard," and the "Indian Head" as a commodity of consumption. This exhibit will be supported by guest lectures in classrooms, a public presentation, and a work session of faculty and students to produce a narrative panel for the existing items portraying Native Americans in the Jim Crow Museum. This series of events is designed to facilitate a deconstruction of popular misconceptions of Native Americans, and to replace hurtful fictionalized portrayals of American Indian cultures with historic and modern perspectives of Native American people.

V. Event Narrative (up to 4 pages single-spaced)

a. The conceptual framework that explains how the event will augment Ferris's long-term commitment to diversity and inclusion:

Ferris State University is committed to *creating environments for student learning that are inclusive of and sensitive to a diverse student populations*. Dr. Baker's visit to our campus to: 1) display artifacts portraying racist caricatures of Native people, 2) publically speak on *"Imaginary Indians' as Artifacts of Power*, 3) visit faculty classrooms on request and 4) participate in a dialogue with students and faculty that will result on an analytical panel to accompany the images of Native people in the Jim Crow Museum will further this goal. Our students and faculty, like other Americans, are bombarded with few images of modern Native Americans. The few we have are often in the form of sport mascots, Disney cartoons of princesses, crying environmentalists and drunkards whooping around campfires. These stereotypes come out in conversations on campus, Halloween costumes, and fear responses when we hosted a Native American Powwow at Ferris. It is hurtful to Native American students and faculty's self-concept, control over the production of their cultural image, and feelings of inclusion. Further, these stereotypes harm non-Native American' students and faculty by supporting false notions real Native Americans.

b. The goals and intended outcome(s) of the event.

The goal is to further develop an inclusive campus, where Native American students and faculty have a voice in creating their own image. Students in the Registered Student Organization "Circle of Tribal Nations" will participate in hosting and promoting this event. This will culminate in their opportunity to take part in the creation of an analytical panel describing artifacts in the Jim Crow Museum. Future students will learn from their work, and from the fact that they were creators and critics of Native Americans at Ferris State University.

c. A statement on how the event relates to the curriculum or a specific discipline, if appropriate. This event crosses curriculums. The activities support the race, ethnicity, and gender components of general education, utilize historical artifacts and historical cross-cultural perceptions to address diversity and

stereotypes, and lastly our hope is to replace misperceptions with accurate portrayals of modern and past Native Americans. The curriculums of sociology, history, anthropology, TV-video production, sports media, and others will benefit from this project.

d. A timeline. Dr. Baker will set up the display the week of February 24th, 2014. We need to arrange for a space for the display. Somewhere in the Library, near the Jim Crow Museum seems most appropriate and safe. He will stay in the area for a full week to participate in lectures, a public speaking event, and a work-session. The Michigan made documentary **Our Fires Still Burn**(Modern Anishinaabek Role Models), produced by Audrey Guyer, 2013, will be shown during the project. The Office of Multicultural Student Services was given a copy of the movie this November by the producer, when she visited campus during Native American Heritage Month for a screening and discussion. The display will be available for one month; it will be packed and shipped to California by March 28th, 2013. The final report will be submitted on or before May 5th, 2013.

e. Description of the target audience, including the estimated number of participants. The event will be promoted the RSO "Circle of Tribal Nations," The "Political Engagement Project," and the "Office of Multicultural Student Services." We will target the event for students, faculty, and off campus community members. We hope to pull over one hundred people at the speaking event, and over a thousand visitors to the display. We will work with the Jim Crow Museum staff and FLITE staff to encourage engagement in and feedback from this project.

f. The expected impact that the event will have on Ferris. This event will create discussion about the social construction of racist images of Native Americans, facilitate a critique, and create a lasting impression on this campus for future visitors to the Jim Crow Museum.

g. A specific plan to assess the impact of the event on the University. Attendees at the speaking event will receive a quiz/survey on impact to follow along with the presentation. These will be collected and analyzed for our follow up report. A sign in sheet and comment box will accompany the display. Faculty requiring students to attend the exhibit may have copies of the sign in sheet. Comments left will be added to our follow up report. The Jim Crow Museum staff will be followed up with to learn how this Native American artifact exhibit impacts visitors of the Museum, as well how best to display and educate visitors about the permanent display of Native American racist memorabilia outside the Museum.

VI. Budget

a. Anticipated expenses (itemize and briefly explain).

Dr. Baker's flight: \$ 600.00, Shipping costs of artifacts: \$ 600.00, Cost of display materials, such as furniture, foam board, tape, etc... needed to fit artifacts into a unique space: \$ 300.00, honorarium for a week of events \$ 1,000. \$200, Cost of final production of educational panel for Native American artifacts outside Jim Crow Museum.

b. Funds anticipated from other sources (please list). Bonnie Wright will feed, house, and drive Brian Baker to events. Circle of Tribal Nations and the Office of Multicultural Student Services will promote the event including advertisements.

c. Total amount requested from Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant. 2,700

VII. Final Report

A final report is required and it will appear on the Diversity Office's website. That report is due no later than three months after the funded activity. The final report should address:

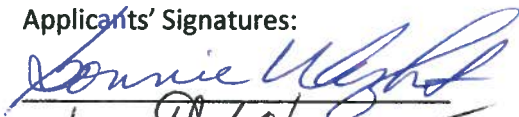

a: A self-evaluation

b: Results of the event assessment

c: Attendance figures

d: Final budget

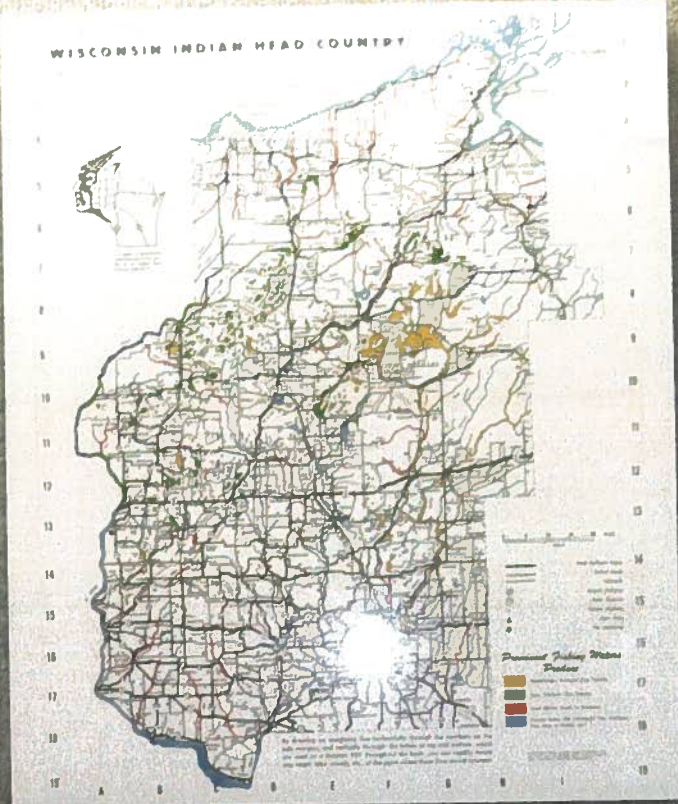
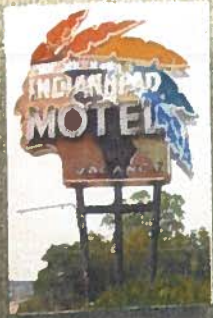
Applicants' Signatures:

Submission Date: 11/14/13

Submit applications to Patty Terryn, Diversity and Inclusion Office, CSS 312. Review of applications will begin upon receipt and continue contingent on available funds. At the committee's discretion, applicants may be asked to participate in a brief interview to better explain their proposal.

MADELINE ISLAND



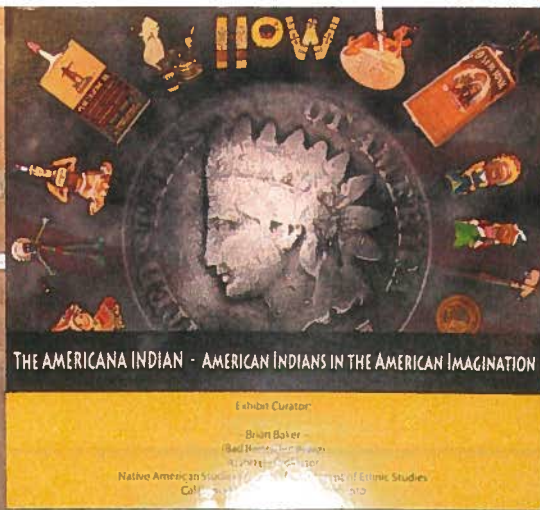
The "Indian Head" as a Commodity for Consumption

The story of Wisconsin Indian Head cigarettes, developed in the northwestern part of the state where an Indian people long lived and lived on the land. The story began in the early days of the state, when the first settlers came to the land. They found the land was rich in resources, and they began to settle there. They found the land was rich in resources, and they began to settle there. They found the land was rich in resources, and they began to settle there.

The "Indian Head" cigarette was first developed by the American Tobacco Company in the early 1900s. It was a popular cigarette, and it was sold in many places. It was a popular cigarette, and it was sold in many places. It was a popular cigarette, and it was sold in many places.

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American Indians in the American Imagination



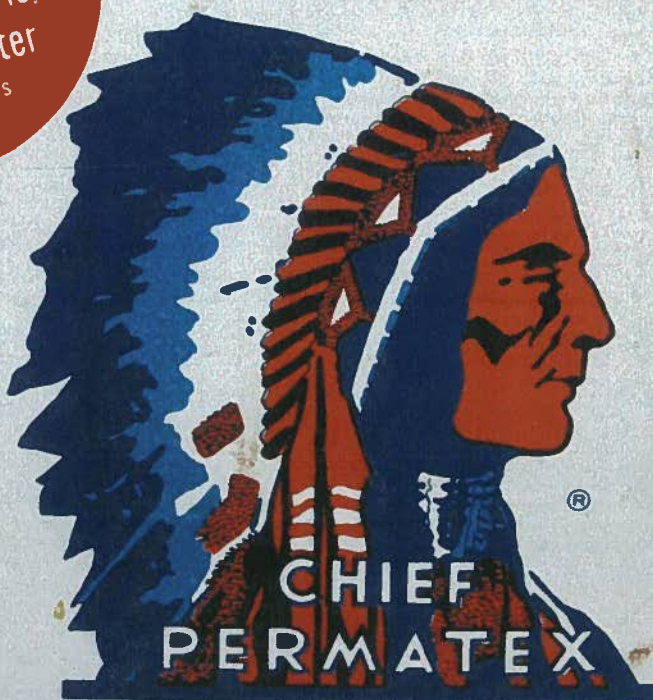
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INDIAN HEAD

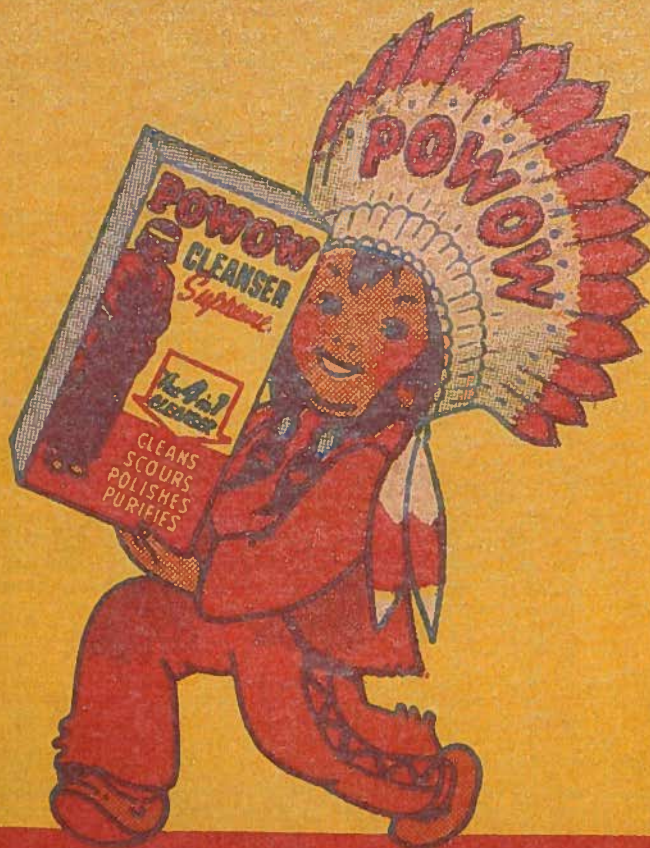
**CONCENTRATE
FORMULA**
makes 1 gal. lubricant
mix with water
see directions
on back



CLEAR
rubber lubricant
concentrate

TO OPEN
PRESS IN HERE

POWOW



CLEANSER

Supreme

Here's Everything You Need

White Feathers; Red & Black Fluffy; Pre-Punched & Trimmed Felt Hat; Felt Squares; Amco Cement; 2 Leather Cornhoes; Max String; Plastic Lace; Twine; 1 Spool Yellow Thread; Plastic Tubing; Plastic Beadling; Stitching Needle; Complete Assembly Instructions.



INDIAN WAR BONNET KIT

Save This Box!

Learn basic Indian Toe-Heel dance step. Put on your War Bonnet and follow easy instructions on the side of this box. Lead! We're going in a REAL Indian Dance.

