

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 (up to 25 words)

Celebrating the Harvest Ferris 2017

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

1 (required)	Fran Rosen	Role on team: Team Leader & Coordinator
2 (required)	Barry Mehler	Role on team: Lead for Sukkoth event
3 (required)	Lisa vonReichBauer	Role on team: Lead for Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival event
4 (optional)	Scott Herron	Role on team: Lead for Hunter's Moon event
5 (optional)	Richard Scott Cohen	Role on team: Team Member, Sukkah support

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.

The Harvest Festival is likely as old as agriculture itself. Human cultures celebrate the yield of the earth, and begin to prepare for winter. It is common for many people in the United States, including Ferris students, to feel separated from the earth and the change of the seasons. This separation contributes to denial and minimization of the threat of devastating changes in the planet's ecology. The Celebrating the Harvest event will bring together harvest traditions of ancient cultures as they are practiced in the modern world. It will provide an opportunity for students to learn about the common experience of different cultures. It will include both celebration and serious discussion of the future. It will combine modern conveniences with traditional activities in order to present a living picture of the continuing story of human struggle and ingenuity. The full moon in late September/early October is connected to many harvest festivals. In 2017, October 4 is both the first evening of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot and the day of the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival, with the Native American festival known as Hunter's Moon arriving on October 5. This event will be held on the Big Rapids campus. In addition, the event will be popularized and promoted broadly in order to communicate to prospective students and families that Ferris State, and the Big Rapids campus in particular, welcomes students from many different cultural and religious backgrounds, and works hard to create an active and inclusive community.

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

1. Discuss the need for this project;

There is urgent need to find ways to heighten awareness of the threats to the future of the earth as a livable world. Transforming our culture into one that values and respects life is our society's only hope to respond positively and humanely to the drastic changes that are coming. Harvest Festivals are an important way that human cultures have celebrated the fruits of the earth and marked the change of the seasons. They reflect much that is still common among human cultures and perhaps can help create a stronger shared understanding of how the earth and its climate are connected to us all. Ferris welcomes many different cultures to the campus; Celebrating the Harvest together will help students see the connections between all human cultures and with the earth.

Faculty and staff at Ferris State University work together to find meaningful and productive ways to promote the university to prospective students and their families. Maintaining and increasing student enrollment is of great importance. Many high school seniors and potential transfer students want to attend a university that is welcoming and inclusive, and that provides opportunities to participate in meaningful and culturally diverse activities. The Celebrating the Harvest event will be promoted to selected communities outside Big Rapids as a way to promote the option of choosing to attend Ferris State University. It will give evidence for the statement that "There's a home for you at Ferris."

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

The project will include at least three Harvest celebrations, representing three foundational human cultures. There will be opportunity for common activities and also separate events that bring to life the different cultures. The Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival on October 4 will be celebrated with tables on the Quad or in the IRC Connector. The tables will feature traditional foods and arts, with accompanying music and entertainment. There will also be an opportunity for students and others to light up the sky with floating sky lanterns. October 4 is also the first night of the Jewish holiday, Sukkot. We will purchase a Sukkah kit so that we can put up a Sukkah on the Ferris campus. A Sukkah is a temporary harvest structure containing harvest symbols for Sukkot. The Sukkah will be put up on October 4 or October 5. The Sukkah will be a visible statement that Ferris is celebrating this Jewish holiday. There will be opportunity for students to visit the Sukkah and learn about the holiday, including an event called "Treats In The Hut," where students and others will gather to eat together and celebrate the harvest. Traditional harvest treats, such as pumpkin and apple pie, will be served. October 5 is the day of the Hunter's Moon, which is one of the times that Harvest is celebrated in many Native American and indigenous cultures. On October 5, we will have the Sukkah in the quad, along with a harvest celebration based on Native American traditions. The final event will be a gathering with brief presentations by members of the Ferris and Big Rapids community. Presentations will be wide-ranging and time-limited, and will all connect with human experience in cultivating the land and human dependence on the planet. We will coordinate this event with activities around Indigenous Peoples Day on October 9.

Different team members will have main responsibility for the different cultural events. Barry Mehler will lead the Sukkot celebration, with Scott Cohen's support. Scott Herron will work with the Circle of Tribal Nations RSO to lead the Native American celebration. Lisa vonReichBauer will work with the Asian Students Organization to create the Mid-Autumn Festival celebration; this will be a good opportunity to bring together Chinese students at Ferris. Fran Rosen will do overall coordination, work on the presentation event, and provide backup as required. Team members will work together, and with internet and social media experts at Ferris, to find ways to bring information about this event to prospective students.

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;

The Sukkah kit will be purchased as soon as the grant is approved. The purchase will be facilitated by the Office of International Education. Initial planning for the events will begin at the start of classes; once the dates are finalized FSUS and Gen Ed faculty will be contacted to let them know about the events and suggests ways to incorporate these events into their course(s) The events themselves will occur on October 4 and October 5, with the Sukkah possibly staying up until the end of the holiday (October 11). The presentation event may be scheduled as part of Indigenous Peoples's Day on October 9. All events will be completed by October 11.

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 is students, faculty, and staff of Ferris State University plus interested community members. It is hard to estimate the number of participants for events which are open-ended; also the weather will affect the numbers on the Quad. Treats In the Hut could attract up to 500 students. Tables in the IRC will reach several hundred students as well. The program with brief presentations should

include 50-100 people. The events will be publicized through articles in the Torch and in the Big Rapids Pioneer, flyers, notices in calendars, etc. As mentioned above, faculty who teach FSUS 100 and Gen Ed courses will be contacted with ideas for incorporating these events into their courses.

The target audience also includes prospective students and their families in Michigan but outside the Big Rapids area. This event will be promoted as an exciting cultural event, and as an example of how the Big Rapids campus of Ferris State University is welcoming and inclusive, with engaged students and opportunities to combine learning with fun.

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

This project supports Goal 5 of the Ferris Diversity and Inclusion Plan. Goal 5 is “Improve inclusivity by incorporating diversity and inclusion in significant ways in teaching, learning, and research.” This project brings to life the common histories of human cultures and the importance of the harvest in human history. Students will have the opportunity to see that cultures can work together and that this inclusive action is more effective than acting separately. They will find increased connections to others at the university and beyond.

This project also supports Goal 3: “Recruit, retain, and graduate a diverse student population.” This event will provide an opportunity to promote Ferris State and the Big Rapids campus as an exciting, culturally diverse, and inclusive space. Current students will be challenged to choose to belong to this inclusive space, and prospective students will get a sense of what college experience in Big Rapids can be. Students who are more connected with others, and are more involved in campus activities, are more likely to stay in college and to graduate; with this event and the promotion of it we work to retain and graduate current students and to attract students who will be engaged on campus.

This project also supports the core value “Ethical Community.” This project will involve people of different cultures working together, merging activities, and treating each other and each culture respectfully. All will be welcome to the events and will have the opportunity to participate. This project will create a stronger sense of community within Ferris. Also, this project aims for an impact beyond Ferris, in connecting our community with the greater world community that must come together to respect our planet and work to limit environmental and ecological change and to preserve the most threatened lives and cultures. Our success will depend on being honest about the real dangers and terrors of the situation, having the integrity to propose true solutions, and fairly valuing the lives and histories of other cultures as equally important to our own.

As part of the Ferris Strategic Plan, under Ethical Community there is a focus on Sustainability. This project will bring new understanding to what are the components of a sustainable culture. In order to face the threats to environment and life, we will need to include the different kinds of knowledge that different cultures possess.

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.

Ferris students will have the opportunity to learn about different ways that harvest is celebrated. This will be measured by counting/estimating the number of students who attend/participate in the different events and assessed by comparing the results to our goals.

Ferris students will engage with the events and report that they have learned more about the common cultural traditions of human societies. This will be measured by a short survey. A small treat will be the reward for filling out the survey. The results will be assessed through analyzing the answers to determine if they report new learning, and answers will be grouped to see which are most common.

Ferris students report a deeper understanding of the connections between the history of human culture, the earth, and the harvest and report an increased desire to learn about and contribute to fair and real solutions to ecological and environmental challenges. This will be measured through surveys at the event and also given to students in FSUS and Gen Ed courses where the events were recommended or required. It will also be measured through analyzing journal entries and other writing that faculty have asked their students to submit. The results will be assessed through analyzing the answers.

Targeted internet and Facebook promotion will promote this event to current students and to prospective students and their families. Hits, likes, follows, and comments will be assessed to see what can be learned about what works to reach students and to generate a positive response. An important result from this activity will be what we learn about how to reach current and prospective students through the internet and social media.

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: _____

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	\$500 for visitors to lead Hunter's Moon event		\$500
HONORARIA			
TRAVEL			
FOOD	\$1000 for Treats for the Sukkot celebration; Chinese Treats for the Mid-Autumn festival, food at the presentation; small rewards for students who fill out surveys		\$1000
RENTALS			
PRINTING & DUPLICATING			

PROMOTION	Targeted internet and facebook promotion. This will be used to boost pages, to purchase targeted ads, and other activities.		\$400
SUPPLIES & POSTAGE			
RESOURCE MATERIALS	\$1000 for a prefabricated Sukkah; \$500 for decorations for Mid-Autumn Festival and floating sky lanterns	Decorations for the Sukkah -- donation	\$1500
ASSESSMENT TOOLS			
OTHER			
TOTAL	\$3400	\$0	\$3400