

Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant Final Report

Project title: Disability Awareness Month 2019 Activities

Grant Recipients: The Liaison Committee for Students with Disabilities

Date Project Started: October 1, 2019

Amount of Money Funded by the Mini-Grant: \$4,500

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

The grant that the Liaison Committee for Students with Disabilities (LCSD) received was utilized to create awareness of and support for our students, staff, faculty and community members with disabilities. The monies received were directly put into programming and advertising efforts for the 2019 Disability Awareness Month

2. Describe the audience that was impacted by the grant's implementation. Provide quantitative data, if available. / 4. What is your overall assessment of the project's impact on the Ferris community? How did this impact compare to what you expected?

- **Deej Film Screening (10/9/19):** Staff/faculty were the main attendees for this event, with a few additional community members in attendance. Although audience turnout was low, this is not uncommon with the first DAM event each year. Great discussions at the end of the film made up for lack of audience turnout, as all audience members were able to participate (versus a larger group which would have prohibited this), and resulting in greater participant takeaway. Those who attended this screening walked away with a much greater understanding of individuals with non-verbal autism, as well as the specific impact on caregivers and family members of those individuals.
- **Esports Unity Bowl (10/12/19):** Unfortunately, this event was cancelled due to lack of participant registration from the Special Olympics team. We hope to revisit this event in the future with additional promotional workup done on our end to ensure participants understand the event and can participate.
- **Flirting with Disability (10/16/19):** This event resulted in a medium sized audience which was evenly comprised of students, faculty and staff. Our panel was large, but well-rounded with a certified sex educator, a certified sex therapist, and three disabled panelists including a COB alumni, a current Ferris undergraduate student and a current graduate KCAD student. Although we had hoped for larger student turn out, the Q&A after the panelists finished the moderator guided session was phenomenal. Audience members were very engaged and asked wonderful questions. Not a single individual left

early from this event, all staying to hear the answers to audience questions and many of them to talk with panelists after the event. In addition, I received follow up emails and had conversations for many days afterwards with audience member who reached out to me to advise how impressed they had been by the event content and how much they had learned personally as a result.

- **Companions in the Quad (10/24/19):** This event was a “drop in” style event, with 4 individuals bringing animals, and over 100 interested students participating by asking questions, drinking hot chocolate and interacting with the animals in attendance. 33 participants went a step further by participating in a 4 question survey that enrolled them in a drawing for a gift basket of Ferris themed pet goodies. The community impact of this event was tremendous, with 100% of surveyed responses indicating that this is an event they would like to see on our campus again. Several respondents went so far as to use the “additional thoughts” section at the bottom of the survey to provide additional positive responses including: “This was awesome!”, “I love this idea!” and “This was super cool and neat! I would love more events like these.” Perhaps most impressively, of those individual respondents, 78% indicated that this was the *first Disability Awareness Month event they had attended*.

The success of this event was important for DAM in several ways – 1.) with ECDS and housing (Bryan Marquardt) in attendance, many individuals were able to ask and immediately have questions answered about companion vs. service animals, as well as Ferris State University policies regarding the same. 2.) We were able to collaborate across multiple departments and with several different outside organizations, including Beer City Dog Biscuits (a non-profit out of GR that provides employments to adults with disabilities) and K9 Camo Companions out of Sparta, both of whom we hope to collaborate with in the future. This type of teamwork makes the outside community broadly aware of Ferris State University and the programming that we provide, and also reminds internal departments and students that ECDS and the LCSD are here to assist. 3.) Surveying data was extremely helpful in determining whether this was the type of event that students would like to see, as well as why they attend events in the first place and to elicit responses on what we can do in the future to make the event better. As a result, we will absolutely be making this a standard event in our yearly DAM lineup, and hope to make it even bigger/better next year.

- **Skeleton Skurry 5k (10/26/19):** This event reached 117 registered runners this year, along with many additional participants who were in attendance, but did not participate in the race itself. This was the second year that the Liaison Committee for Students with Disabilities collaborated with the Pioneer Group to ensure that this established race would be fully inclusive for individuals of all abilities. Planning this event with local community members has given our university and the LCSD greater recognition for

services provided in our community, and I have several new contacts as a result of this year's event that have offered to promote our future events through the community. An additional benefit of this collaboration is that the community of Big Rapids is able to provide one of the few fully inclusive 5K's in the state.

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.

Maggie Walcott – Team leader, in charge of planning, implementing and executing all DAM events as well as collaborating with community partners on events. Lead role for Flirting with Disability and co-lead on Skeleton Skurry.

Amy Green – Co-lead for Skeleton Skurry event, assisted in planning and implementing event. Lead on Esports Unity Bowl, which unfortunately had to be canceled due to lack of registrations leading up to event.

Ashley Hawley – Lead on Companions in the Quad. Planned, ordered and coordinated all giveaways for this event.

Christopher Richmond – Moderator/Lead for Flirting with Disability. Assisted in meeting with and preparing event panelists before event, as well as the moderation of a guided Q&A with the panelists and live Q&A with event guests.

Ted Halm – Moderator/Lead for DeeJ Film Screening. Created and moderated post film discussions for event.

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

See question 2 above.

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.

Please see attached.

Primary Grant Recipient's Signature: Maggie M. Walcott/mwm

Date: 12/9/19

EXPENSES – MISCELLANEOUS Disability Awareness Month

PAID TO	TYPE	PAID
FSU Copy & Print Center	Printing of DAM promo materials	\$359.20
FSU Graphic Media Management	Printing of DAM banner	\$40
	TOTAL	\$399.20
	D&I FUNDS USED	\$399.20

EVENT: Deej Film Screening – 10/9/19

PAID TO	TYPE	PAID
Ferris State University Catering	Event Catering	\$92.70
	TOTAL	\$92.70
	D&I FUNDS USED	\$92.70

EVENT: Flirting with Disability – 10/16/19

PAID TO	TYPE	PAID
Ferris State University Catering	Event Catering	\$599.25
FSU University Center	Room Fee - UCB 202A	\$50
Melissa DiVietri	Speaker Honorarium	\$500
Justine Braford	Speaker Honorarium	\$250
Heather Alberda	Speaker Honorarium	\$250
Aaminah Shakur	Speaker Honorarium	\$25
Preferred Office Machines	Event Giveaway (stickers)	\$100
Enterprise	Speaker Travel Expense (Melissa DiVietri)	\$168.59
Holiday Inn	Speaker Travel Expense (Melissa DiVietri)	\$289.80
Blue Cow Restaurant	Speaker Dinner Expense	\$250.57
	TOTAL	2483.21
	<i>Expected Reimbursements</i>	<i>-229.19</i> <i>(CAS collaboration)</i>
	D&I FUNDS USED	2254.02

EVENT: Skeleton Skurry Fully Inclusive 5K Event – 10/26/19

PAID TO	TYPE	PAID
Michiana Timing	Skeleton Skurry Timing Services	\$685.75
	TOTAL	\$685.75
	D&I FUNDS USED	\$685.75

EVENT: Companions in the Quad – 10/24/19

PAID TO	TYPE	PAID
Executive Advertising	Personalized FSU Giveaway (waste bag)	\$144.09
Dollar Tree	Event Giveaway	\$8
Dollar Tree	Event Giveaway	\$10
FSU Bookstore	Items for Basket Giveaway	\$76.68
Ferris State University Catering	Event Catering	\$99.60
	TOTAL	\$338.37
	D&I FUNDS USED	\$338.37

RECAP of FULL EXPENDITURES

EVENT	PAID
MISC Printing Expenses	\$399.20
Deej Film Screen - 10/9/19	\$92.70
Flirting with Disability - 10/16/19	\$2254.02
Companions in the Quad - 10/24/19	\$338.37
Skeleton Skurry 5K - 10/26/19	\$685.75
TOTAL D&I FUNDS USED	\$3770.04
<i>TOTAL D&I FUNDS REQUESTED</i>	<i>\$4500.00</i>
REFUND OWED TO D&I	-\$729.96