

Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant Final Report

Project title Queer Conversations: Community dialogue on LGBTQA issues featuring the photo exhibit, *Love Makes a Family*, and a guest lecture by Dr. John Corvino

Grant Recipients Grant Snider, Carrie Weis, Katherine Harris & The Alliance of Ferris Employees

Date Project Started 3/26/2009

Amount of Money Funded by the Mini-Grant \$4,000

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

This grant helped bring an anchoring exhibit to the university's first series showcasing issues affecting gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer people and their allies. It also provided for a nationally known speaker, John Corvino to deliver a talk on the contact zone of debate surrounding homosexuality with a leadership dinner held after his talk. These three significant events were key parts of the biennial "Queer Conversations" series. The series and conversations initiated by the exhibit, talk and leadership dinner are to date one of the most significant expressions of Ferris State University's commitment to LGBT people as provided for in the university's diversity plan.

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

The Love Makes a Family Exhibit was attended by several hundred students, employees and community members. The Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning provided support for class activities and among the many classes whose members were invited to attend the exhibit professors describe the experience as "thought provoking" and "providing a framework for important discussions on sexual orientation and gender identity." John Corvino's talk was attended by over three hundred people at the University's Dome Room. A campus leadership dinner was also held in the gallery with Dr. Corvino as guest. In attendance were President Eisler and other administrative, faculty, and student leaders.

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

We think the program was a success. Not only were the primary exhibit and lecture well attended and connected to educational material, they also provided an amplifying

influence on the other events of the Queer Conversations series. As a result, campus and community members engaged in conversation and reflection about issues affecting those of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity that went far beyond the typical hot-button media fueled issues. The conversations we observed were marked by thoughtfulness and civility. Originally there had been some concern that the event would be met with controversy, but the tenor of the proceedings and viewings demonstrated the maturity of the campus community and its ability to explore issues that affect diverse populations with challenging implications.

4. 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.

Expenses for Queer Conversations Events	
\$ 1,750.00	Gallery costs for rental and installation of Love Makes a Family exhibit
\$ 349.75	Leadership dinner (Oct 5, 2009)
\$ 50.00	Gallery fee (to host dinner)
\$ 90.00	Comstock house (Dr. Corvino's Room)
\$ 2,600.00	Corvino speaking fee (Kirkland Productions)
\$ 9.20	Copy center (invitations for Corvino lecture and dinner)
\$ 8.58	Copy center (AFE thank you cards for support)
\$ 483.60	Gallery reception (Oct 6, 2009. Love Makes a Family Exhibit)
\$ 150.00	Reception live music
\$ 38.25	Hr fee
\$ 5,529.38	Total expenses

Primary Grant Recipient's Signature

Date _____