

## Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant Final Report

**Project title** Raising Expectations with Raised Beds Gardens

**Grant Recipients** Scott Herron, Biology/Horticulture Faculty (Primary Investigator)

Andrea Lodholtz, Greenhouse Technician/Manager

Deb Cox, Educational and Career Counseling Department Head

Will Gasper, FSU Grounds Supervisor

Roger Schneidt, Big Rapids Acting Public Works Director

Jill Buse, Big Rapids Recreation Director/Parks and Rec. Chair

Krishnakali Majumdar, Social Science Faculty

**Date Project Started** 4/3/09

Amount of Money Funded by the Mini-Grant \$4000

1. How was the grant used to address a diversity or inclusion related goal? The grant was used to build 2 handicapped accessible, highly visible raised beds, constructed out of local white cedar lumber. These planter beds were located on the concrete pad outside the entrance to the Science building adjacent to the Smith Greenhouse, by FSU Horticulture students in Dr. Herron's Plant Propagation class (HORT 152) as a Service Learning/Political Engagement Project activity tied into the class objectives of the course. The design, site selection, and materials were approved by the Project Team, which included two experts in the inclusion focus ensuring that wheel chair bound individuals, along with individuals with mobility issues, would be accommodated by the location and design of these planters. These were perhaps the first public access structures for individuals with mobility challenges located on campus, with the intent to be accessible and usable by all members of our campus. The plan was to build 2 planters on campus and another 2-4 planters in the city of Big Rapids. The project hired an intern, Tuan Tran (Optometry Professional Student) who functioned as the Raised Bed Outdoor Education Coordinator.
2. Describe the audience that was impacted by the grant's implementation. Provide quantitative data, if available.

The audiences that were impacted by the grants implementation include the Horticulture students at Ferris, the Disability Services department, the Physical Plant, the Biology Department faculty, administration and some students, along with the College of Arts and Science's Diversity Committee. Community members, such as Denise and Lauren Mitten utilized the herbs and other plants grown as local, organic herbs and produce available to them upon request. After the initial implementation of the raised beds on April 27, 2009, the project received some negative criticism from unspecified individuals in the Physical Plant. The audience impact was limited by Physical Plant's efforts to shut down this project. The planned educational events were all put on hold pending resolution of the concerns by Physical Plant. The educational events and additional beds were never carried out and after the growing season ended the planters were removed by FSU Grounds. Our intern was interested in returning for a second growing season, but the project was put on indefinite hold due to the lack of consensus between FSU Physical Plant and the Project Team and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

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

My assessment was that there was strong support from President Eisler, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Horticulture Program, the Honor's Program, and the City of Big Rapids. We received compliments from the campus community about the location, appearance, and accessibility, as well as the usefulness of herbs and vegetables grown. I expected this pilot project to continue for multiple years and expand to more locations across campus and in the city; however this expectation was not realized due to the untimely truncation of the project.

**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.**

**VI. Budget**

a. Anticipated expenses (itemize and briefly explain).

*Note: All materials for one bed, since number of beds TBA per recommendation by FSU Grounds and City of Big Rapids (6 beds total)*

Cedar wood lumber (6 feet long by 2 inches thick by 4 in wide)@ 12 per bed= \$90 per bed per quote from Alan Holmes in Tustin

Cedar corner brace posts (24 inches long by 4 in wide 4 in thick) @ 4 per bed (1- 8 foot post)= \$20

Galvanized Screws (3 inch long) @ 5 lb box-\$30

Landscape fabric (for lining the inside walls-not bottom)-\$15

Water costs (?)-would city or FSU charge for water usage?

Horticulture Internship (Outreach Education Coordinator)-open to any qualified student regardless of program affiliation- \$1500

Organic fertilizer- \$100

Watering hoses (150 foot length), buckets & cans- \$75 per location

Dedication Placard (FSU Media Production?)-\$100

Educational materials (brochures, fliers, and handouts)-\$300

Rain barrels (plastic 60 gallon, recycled material) to capture rain water for supplemental watering -\$100 each (4 barrels per location= \$400)

*Material and Supplies for one bed = \$1130*

*Each Extra Raised Bed=\$155 (5 extra beds=\$775)*

*Additional location (Big Rapids site/s-add placard, fertilizer, hoses, water cans, rain barrels=\$675)*

Personnel (intern)=\$1500

**Total Costs=\$4080**

Compost from Smith Greenhouse (in-kind) and Big Rapids Public Works (in-kind)

Gravel and sand (in-kind) from Scott Herron for bottom drainage

Plants (in-kind) from Greenhouse, Plant Propagation class and donations.

BIOLOGY GENERAL DEVELOPMENT: Scott Herron		
COMMENTS	EXPENSE	INCOME
Raised Flower Beds Grant		\$4,000.00
Tractor Supply Company	\$118.91	
Holmes Sawmill	\$550.00	
Fastenal	\$38.58	
Lowe's	\$19.94	
Fastenal	\$33.05	
Student	\$329.26	
	\$1,089.74	\$4,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,910.26</b>

**Primary Grant Recipient's Signature** Scott Herron

**Date** 9/9/10