

**Ferris State University**  
**Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant Application**

**I. Identification**

Name of Primary Applicant: Karen GreenBay

Members of Team

Co-Sponsors: SCHOLAR Program  
University College

Department or Unit: SCHOLAR Program

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**II. Event (Project) Title (25 words or less)**

Students With Children (SWC) Network

**III. Specific core value, strategic initiative, or goal related to diversity that the event will address. (See the University Strategic Plan and the Diversity Plan)**

Although the proposed SWC Network is applicable to all five University core values, we believe that the project described below most specifically addresses the collaboration between the campus and the local community to support Ferris students with children. The major goal for implementing this network is to attract, engage, and retain students with children who are entering or returning to college. As a result, more SWC will come to realize that they are respected and appreciated via the efforts from this network and will hopefully continue enrollment thru graduation.

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

University College and the SCHOLAR Program are attempting to address the needs of Students with Children as expressed in a survey (attached) administered early in Fall 2009. The proposed Students with Children Network will offer activities, resources, and services for SWNs attending Ferris including peer mentors, referrals to campus and community resources, parenting education seminars, and family friendly activities. These new efforts will be provided for first-time college students, returning and transfer students who have children ages infant thru high school. In addition to offering this pilot project, we will be collaborating with Professor Bonnie Wright's social science research method class to conduct a proper needs assessment during Fall 2009.

**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.**

One aspect of diversity that seems to have been largely ignored at Ferris State University is the population of non-traditional students, especially those who are parents of dependent children. Certainly, the University provides both family housing options and child care (Tots' Place) for those who can afford and find space in both of those auxiliary services. With the current economic situation, however, many adults are returning to Ferris to further their educations in fields that will lead to employment in the new economy. Many of these learners cannot access the campus based housing and/or child care and must identify options in the Big Rapids community. All of these students present special needs with regard to family medical care that the University health center cannot accommodate. Socially, SWCs also have a need to find peers who share their joys and their frustrations. Thus, we propose the SWC network. This network could augment Ferris' commitment to diversity by assuring prospective students that efforts are made to motivate, support, and provide resources for them to overcome the extraordinary challenges that confront them in this effort. The proposed project is not unlike the support that is being offered already to students who qualify for the Tuition Incentive Program grant or to students who are military veterans. Each group has a unique set of concerns that simply do not apply to the vast majority of our traditional-aged and situated students.

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

This unique grant request is to connect Ferris students with children to campus and community resources, provide activities that normally may not be offered to families, and to create a network that can be lasting to current and future students. A sample of the activities scheduled for fall semester is attached.

**c. A statement on how the event relates to the curriculum or a specific discipline, if appropriate.**

As noted above, we are collaborating with Dr. Bonnie Wright's social science research class to conduct a formal needs assessment during fall semester.

**d. A timeline.**

This pilot program will operate during the academic year 2009-2010. While the Dean of University College has agreed to provide start-up funding, this grant could offset some of the expenses for the pilot project and help University College determine the extent of the need for this group of students.

**e. Description of the target audience, including the estimated number of participants.**

The University tracks students who live in family housing and those who indicate the number of children on the financial aid application. The number of students with children attending Ferris during the Fall 2009 semester, according to those sources, is estimated at 150 students. The number of students with children outside of those categories is unknown, but we believe there are more.

**f. The expected impact that the event will have on Ferris.**

Currently, there isn't an office/department identified to provide specific support and services for SWC. Establishing the Students with Children Network would be a first step. This support has the potential to increase retention, unite students to overcome challenges, and increase academic success. Participating students will have the belief that the University cares about them and their families. Many events and support programs are advertised for the traditional students. Marketing things for non-traditional students will help build morale and inclusiveness.

**g. A specific plan to assess the impact of the event on the University.**

All the events/activities provided through the grant will be assessed with evaluations completed by the participants. Students will indicate the value of the event or support and this will help determine continuation of each activity. A final survey will be conducted in April to capture the overall impact of the pilot project.

**VI. Budget (See Attached – Budget Expense)**

**a. Anticipated expenses (itemize and briefly explain).**

Anticipated expenses to support the project would be \$13,506 staff wages/benefits for an adult part time appointment, student wage, and supply/expense for activities in fall and spring semesters. A detailed budget is attached.

**b. Funds anticipated from other sources (please list).**

The Dean of University College has pledged up to \$10,000 from his budget to support the SWC Network.

**c. Total amount requested from Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant.**

The amount requested from the Diversity Mini-Grant is \$3,753.00

## 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

The SCHOLAR Program and University College are experienced at collecting assessments for each aspect of their programming, analyzing the findings, and keeping careful track of expenses. These report elements, together with the findings from the needs assessment, will be submitted during summer 2010.

Applicants' Signatures:

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Submission Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Submit applications to Patty Terryn, Diversity Office, CSS 312. Review of applications will begin upon receipt and continue contingent on available funds.



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**FALL 2009 - SEMESTER  
PEER MENTOR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**



*Below are activities planned for mentor and mentee participation. All activities are highly recommended and are free to SCHOLAR participants*

*\*Sunday, August 30, 2009*

**Peer Mentor Program – Kick Off**

Rankin Center (252), 4:00pm - 6:00pm

The “Kick-Off” is the beginning of the Mentor & Mentee experience. Mentees have an opportunity to meet the individual that they will establish a long LASTING, team-building relationship with.

*Thursday, September 10, 2009*

**Student Get Acquainted Day**

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Quad (Rain location – Rankin Center Dome Room)

Event is FREE and everyone is invited to meet and greet new faces, student organizations, and much more!! There will be free food, live music/DJ, and plenty of give-a-ways to assist students starting the new semester!

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

**Ferris Hispanic Festival**

11am – 2:00 pm, Campus Quad (Rain location – Rankin Center Dome Room)

Mr. LACy el OSO – Dancers, traditional crafts, authentic Mexican food.

*Saturday, September 19, 2009*

**Mecosta County Relay for Life**

Mitchell Creek Field, Big Rapids

(Noon – 2pm or 6pm – 8pm)

Each year, across the nation, one event brings together entire communities to take part in the fight against cancer. That event is the American Cancer Society Relay For Life®. It’s a time and place where people come to **celebrate** those who have survived cancer, **remember** those we’ve lost, and **fight back** against a disease that touches too many lives.

*Saturday, September 19, 2009*

**Horse Soccer Tournament – Chase, MI**

Narrow Gate Youth Ranch (NGYR) - 10:00am

NGYR opened their gates in March 2008 with a mission to establish a learning environment for hurting children. They believe that the interaction between horse, child and leader forms a bond of trust that is life changing. NGYR is a non-profit organization and as a fundraising event, they are holding their first Annual Horse Soccer Tournament. The riders will work with a large soccer ball for the tournament.

View further information on NGYR at [www.ngyr.org](http://www.ngyr.org).

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

**Jeff Foxworthy, Comedian**

7:00pm, Western Michigan University

Jeff Foxworthy is one of the most respected and successful comedians in the country. He is the largest selling comedy-recording artist in history, a multiple Grammy® award nominee and bestselling author of

11 books. Widely known for his redneck jokes, his act goes well beyond that to explore the humor in everyday family interactions and human nature. Don't miss the most exciting comedy event of the season!

**FSU Homecoming Week - Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> - See Ferris Calendar for Events**

***Friday, October 9, 2009***

**Championship Bull Riders, Grand Rapids, MI**

Danger and excitement are stampeding into Van Andel Arena; professional championship bull riders are coming to our area. Rob Smets, five-time world champion is known as "The Kamikaze Kid" for rescuing bull riders and Joe Garretson, Top PCB bull fighter is returning. Don't miss the beauty and excitement of these lightning fast horses.

***Monday, October 12, 2009***

**"Take Back The Night" March**

Main Campus Quad – 6pm ??

Students will gather in the main campus quad, then proceed to march through the quad down State Street. Students will carry signs displaying sexual assault prevention and domestic violence. Students will then gather at the Rankin Center Dome Room for light refreshments and hear speakers from W.I.S.E.

***Saturday, October 17, 2009***

**John Ball Park Zoo, Grand Rapids, MI**

Bus leaves FLITE Circle Drive @ 5:30pm

The John Ball Zoo has over 1100 animals representing the wilds of Africa, Asia, South America, Australia and the United States. The John Ball Zoological Garden is owned and operated by the County of Kent.

***Friday, October 23, 2009***

**Craig's Cruisers – Grand Rapids**

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm (Bus leaves Rankin Center Drive @ 5:00 pm)

There's no better way to relieve stress than taking a trip to Craig's Cruisers. Since 1999, Craig's Cruisers have been known as the best choice for corporations, senior class parties, family reunions, church groups, and several more. Many activities are offered such as, a gigantic Pizza & Pasta buffet and private rooms, indoor and outdoor go-carts, laser tag, and multiple games.

***Saturday, October 31, 2009***

**Outback Stables – Stanwood, MI**

12:00 pm – 5:00 pm (Bus leaves Rankin Center Drive @ 11:00am)

Participants will enjoy the beautiful countryside while aboard a horse-drawn wagon or on horseback rides through parts of 700 acres of wooded trails. We are departing from the Rankin Circle Drive @ 11:00a.m.

***Tuesday, November 10, 2009***

**Native American Pow Wow**

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Rankin Center Dome Room

Pow Wow Presentation: "The Anishinabe Tribe" - Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture and Lifestyles.  
6-7 PM - Individuals will be able to participate in Native Dance as well as creating Native American necklaces and dreamcatchers! 7-8PM - Join us for this Native American POW WOW presentation featuring the members of the Anishinabe Tribe of Michigan.

***Friday, November 13, 2009***

**SCHOLAR Parent Treat**

November 20, 2009

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, West Campus Community Center

Ferris students with children can bring their child(ren) to this event and return home to study, attend an adult event, finish a paper, or just go home to relax. Children will be occupied with games, food, and laughter. Limited space is available. Children must be potty trained or between ages of 3-10.

*Friday, November 20, 2009*

**SCHOLAR – Family Night Out**

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Big Rapids GKC Theatre

Scholar participants will enjoy an evening at the Big Rapids movie theatre. Actual time of this event depends upon movie show times. Each participant will receive a movie pass and snack coupon.

*Thursday, December 10, 2009*

**Peer Mentor Awards Banquet**

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm – West Campus Community Center

*Mentees will receive recognition in accomplishing their academic goals. This is a great opportunity for mentors to witness how their hard work and dedication has made a difference in someone's life.*

***Mentors and Mentees MUST be present to receive their awards!***

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**Students with Children Survey**  
**Fall Semester 2009**  
**September 10 & 16, 2009**

Please take a moment to complete this survey so University College can better serve Ferris Students with Children (SWC). **Your opinion matters!**

- |  |            |                            |           |                    |           |           |
|--|------------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. How many children do you have?          | 1<br>(12)  | 2<br>(5)                   | 3<br>(2)  | More than 3<br>(1) |           |           |
| 2. What is your current enrollment status? | N/A<br>(1) | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sem<br>(2) | Fr<br>(0) | So<br>(5)          | Jr<br>(3) | Sr<br>(9) |
3. What support services or programs do you currently utilize as a SWC?
- None really (12)
  - Delta Sigma Theta & YBBW
  - I don't know of any
  - Was not aware of anything
  - Tot's Place & Scholar (2)
  - Sand boxes at the apartments
4. What is your biggest struggle as a Ferris student with children?
- No car, trying to juggle classes, work, and organization
  - Find program that involves children
  - Study time
  - Finding Time (4)
  - Finding daycare/childcare (3)
  - Daycare after hours (2)
  - Time management & stress (2)
  - Having enough time in the day
  - Making time for family with school & work
  - No events for kids
  - After school programs (2)
  - Time to study & child being sick & missing classes
  - Cost of tuition and cost of living with children
  - Professors are NOT sympathetic!!
5. Would you be interested in serving on a focus group or committee to develop a support network for SWC?
- Yes (17)
  - Maybe (3)
6. What type of events, resources or services at Ferris do you believe would be beneficial to SWC?
- Events that can involve children
  - Anything where students w/children can socialize
  - Support system

- Emotional support
- Childcare/daycare (2)
- Dances, community outreach programs, and tutoring
- Social and academic events
- Not sure
- Events that time is okay for families to attend
- Know about area services
- Children resources
- Family outings
- Events once a month for family
- Fairs & movies
- G-Rated movies at the Quad, Ferris Fest w/young music/characters
- An experienced babysitters ring!

**Comments or Suggestions (Please use the reverse side for additional comments)**