

Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant Final Report

Project Title:

“Students with Children (SWC) Network”



Grant Recipients:

The SCHOLAR Program and University College

Date Project Started: Academic Year 2009-2010

Amount of Money Funded by the Mini-Grant: \$3,753.00

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

Students with Children (SWC) Network was established as a pilot program in University College Fall 2009. The network was formed to address the needs of Ferris SWC by offering activities, resources, and services to students which include peer mentors, campus referrals, community referrals, parenting education seminars, and family friendly activities. These efforts were offered to first-time college students, returning and transfer students who have children ages infant through high school. This network augments Ferris' commitment to diversity by assuring students and prospective students that efforts are made to motivate, support, and provide resources for them to help overcome the extraordinary challenges that confront them while attending college. The network also provides this group of students with a sense of comfort that they are an important part of the student body and that their needs are also being met.

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

The department identified Ferris students who could benefit from these services by distributing a campus-wide email to offer our support. At this point, we have reached approximately 240 Ferris students who have children. Our goal is to be able to continue to offer services that will increase their chances of success at Ferris State.

A campus-wide needs assessment survey was administered to students last year to collect data about their parenting needs and identify obstacles that may interfere with their successful completion of a college degree. The survey instrument was administered by the students enrolled in Dr. Bonnie Wright's social science research class. Students enrolled in the research class compiled results and provided survey findings. The details will be presented by Dr. Wright's class next week; but the needs and services reflected in the findings consisted of "financial aid, child care, health services, library resources, academic support services, recreation, dining services, and housing."

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

This pilot program has already exposed SWC participants to a variety of opportunities available to them within our community. In Spring 2010 semester, we kicked off the program by hosting a "Students with Children" Appreciation event in January. Although attendance was low, possibly due to weather conditions, the Appreciation allowed participants to attend interactive workshops with topics covering Family Recreation,

Careers & Relationships, Financial Management, University and Community Resources, and more. Students were able to participate in these workshops while their children were involved in other age appropriate activities. From this event, an important and valuable network was been established with Great Start Collaborative (GSC) of Mecosta-Osceola Counties. The University has already engaged with this support program and Ferris students have been encouraged to take advantage of their services. May 19, 2010, GSC and University College hosted a bus trip for participants to join learners for the Fourth Annual Star Power event at the State Capitol. GSC sponsors monthly advocacy workshops open to families, educators, and service individuals who have contact with young children. The workshops are tools for advocates of young children to “explore ways to improve the advocacy efforts to impact positive changes that will strengthen our local system of the care for young children.” Karen GreenBay has been attending the workshops and local conferences sponsored by GSC and serves as the liaison for the groups.

In addition to the collaborative relationships that have been established with community agencies and university departments, recreational/learning activities were planned so students can enjoy activities with their families that they might not have able to afford on their own. These events include, but are limited to:

- SWC Annual Appreciation – students and family members had an opportunity to network with other SWC, learn more about Ferris and community resources, and attend interactive workshops.

- Star Power 2010, Lansing – learners met state legislators to talk about the significance of building an early childhood system for all Michigan’s children.
- Disney Playhouse, Finding Nemo, Craig’s Cruiser, Whitecaps baseball game, Mecosta County Fair events planned for participants to enjoy family fun activities that they may not have been able to afford.
- Outback Stables, Family Fun Day at the Gate, Swimming lessons – team building and group activities
- John Ball Park Zoo – families learn about different animal species
- GSC Workshops & Conferences – a variety of workshops were held throughout the year where parents can apply them or enhance their current parental strategies

All of the above are learning and fun activities. Students continue to express their gratitude to the University for offering these programs to their families. Included with this report are event summaries for each activity sponsored by SWC. With the financial support of the Diversity Mini Grant, over 400 participants (including parents/children and some duplicated attendance) were able to take advantage of 14 activities during Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 semesters; for a total of \$12,191.28 dollars spent.

We believe that the Students with Children program is off to a great start to create a welcoming environment at Ferris State and Big Rapids for this unique group of college students. A remaining challenge is identifying the population of SWC who do not live in family residence or receive financial assistance. We continue to encourage word of mouth advertisement and fully utilize University internet communication resources. Our department will strive to expand our services to SWC and review model programs at our sister universities to incorporate services that “fit” our student needs.

The SWC Program continued Fall 2010 with a kick off on August 31, 2010 and has planned similar activities for the upcoming year. A new and unique level of support this semester is to offer swimming lessons for families who choose to enroll their children in the FSU Swim Program. Karen GreenBay has made arrangements to meet with University web design staff to create a web presence for the program. University College has formed an advisory committee comprised of key individuals from the university campus, community, and students. We have found that this population of students has unique needs just as the Veteran students, student athletes, and disability students have expressed. Representatives from Housing, Health Center, Admissions/Registration, Financial Aid, Tot's Place, Dean of Student Life, and Great Start Collaborative will continue the dialogue to provide services for SWC. Additional considerations that has been discussed include identifying an ombudsperson for SWC, establishing an Recognized Student Organization (RSO) for networking, and exploring dining options for parents and children. The commitment from campus departments and community agencies to extend support to this group of students is overwhelming positive. Many of them understand the students challenges and are very willing to offer assistance where needed.

Listed below are a few testimonials from Students with Children:

"I just want to say thank you very much for what you are doing for us and the kids, it means a lot to us!"
Sincerely, Shawn Bertl

"I would like to thank everyone who made this event happen. Sorry I didn't say anything at the lunch when asked, still a little unnerving to talk in front of people. I've

lived in Big Rapids my whole life and got more resources than I even knew that were available. It really does make life easier when there are people like yourselves who care about and know how hard it may be at times to attend college and raise a family at the same time."

Thank you very much, Michael VanHorn

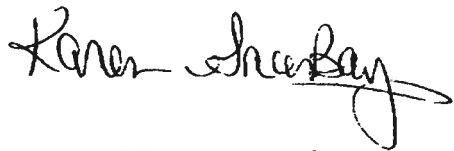
"Oh my goodness, we had such an awesome time on the Finding Nemo trip, I will be downloading the pics within the next day or two and will email them to you. Thank you all so much for doing this, it means a lot. Thank you so much and can't wait for all of us to get together again. The kids LOVED IT!"

Sincerely, Shawn Bertl

- 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.**

See attached budget summary

Primary Grant Recipient's Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Shuey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'K'.

Date: Friday, September 3, 2010

Selected Event Photos

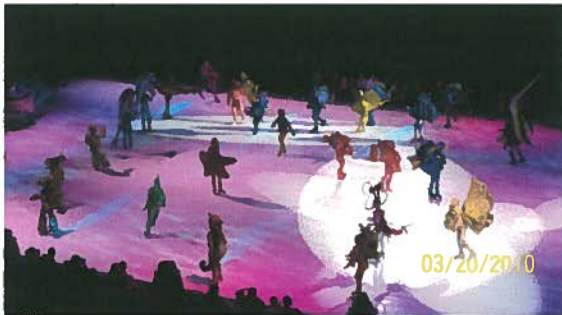
FAMILY FUN DAY



Narrow Gate Ranch



Disney on Ice



Disney Playhouse



Craig's Cruisers



SWC Evaluation Summary

Name of Event: Championship Bull Riders

Date of Event: 10/10/09

Number of forms returned: 7

Number attended: 21

Strongly Agree 1	Neutral 2	Strongly Disagree 3
Statements		
1. The departure location (Rankin) was a good place to meet.	7	0 0
2. This is an event the program should continue to sponsor.	7	0 0

3. Did you attend this event with your mentor or mentee?

Y- 0

N-6

N/A-1

4. Have you ever attended a championship bull rider show before?

Y- 1

N-6

5. Would you attend another bull rider show in the future?

Y- 7

N-0

Comments and/or Suggestions:

- **We gotta do this again!**
- **This event was a blast!**
- **This event was fun, "out the box" and all too exciting!**
- **Awesome!**
- **I kind of wish we could have gotten autographs.**

SWC Evaluation Summary

Name of Event: "Craig Cruisers" **Date of Event:** October 24, 2009

Number of forms returned: 16 **Number of people attended:** 34

STRONGLY AGREE
1

NEUTRAL
2

STRONGLY DISAGREE
3

STATEMENT	1	2	3
1. The departure location (Rankin) was a good place to meet.	13	3	0
2. This is an event the program should continue to sponsor.	12	4	0

3. Did you attend this event with your mentor or mentee?

Yes - 4

No - 11

N/A - 1

4. Have you ever attended Craig Cruisers before?

Yes - 4

No - 12

5. Would you attend another event like this again in the future?

Yes - 15

No - 1

Comments and Suggestions:

- Cool event! This was an appropriate length of time.
- We attended with our children and it was nice to have the school do something for families, too.
- Find a place with a bigger go cart track.
- This was very fun!
- Thanks for paying for everything!
- Food was great!
- Let's do it again!

Students with Children Appreciation

Name of event: SWC Appreciation

Date of event: 01/30/10

Number of forms returned: 9

Number of people attended: 13

Y N

STATEMENT		
1. Was the workshop informative and helpful?	9	0
2. Were you satisfied with the outcome of the event?	9	0
3. Would you attend another SWC sponsored event?	9	0

4. What did you enjoy most about the appreciation?

The activities for the children and the information.

The resources available in the community.

Networking with other parents

I enjoyed everything

5. What resources and/or services would you like to see available to SWC at FSU?

Information about Section 8 housing, Daycare, Molly Bopp 796-8883 or 6, Headstart

Comments and/ or Suggestions:

Greatly appreciated

Thank you

This was awesome

Doing great

Maybe snacks between sessions

SWC Evaluation Summary

Name of Event: Disney Playhouse Live Date of Event: 03/7/10

Number of forms returned: 15 Number of people attended: 63

Number of families: 21

STRONGLY AGREE
1

NEUTRAL
2

STRONGLY DISAGREE
3

STATEMENT	1	2	3
1. The show was very entertaining for children and adults.	15	0	0
2. I would recommend this show to a friend.	15	0	0

3. Would you attend another Disney Live show?

Y - 15

N - 0

4. Have you ever attended a live performance like Playhouse Disney before?

Y - 2

N - 13

5. List a family event you'd like to recommend for Students With Children.

- zoo, arcade, bowling and skating.
- Grand Rapids Art Museum
- Movie trip (2)
- Fredrick Meijer Gardens- Butterflies (2)
- Play World
- Picnic
- Cran - Hill Ranch or horseback riding
- Spring Hill Camps or Sports

Comments and Suggestions:

- Thank you so much for everything! It was Awesome!
- Great Event! Smiles were priceless!

SWC Evaluation Summary

Name of Event: Disney on Ice "Finding Nemo"

Date of Event: 03/20/10

Number of forms returned: 22 Number of people attended: 62

STRONGLY AGREE 1	NEUTRAL 2	STRONGLY DISAGREE 3				
STATEMENT				1	2	3
1. The show was very entertaining for children and adults.				20	1	1
2. I would recommend this show to a friend.				20	1	1

3. Would you attend another Disney on Ice show?

Y - 22 N - 0

4. Have you ever attended a live performance like Disney on Ice before?

Y - 9 N - 13

5. List a family event you'd like to recommend for Students With Children.

- Fredrick Meijer Garden (1)
- Butterflies at Fredrick Meijer Gardens
- Michigan Adventures (3)
- Any event similar to the one because, it involves the entire family!
- Anything with my kid lol. These are great events!
- Pool and swimming
- Ice skating (1)
- Children's Museum (2)
- Camping
- Meijer butterflies are blooming.
- Nick JR. Playhouse Live

Comments and Suggestions:

Thank you!

Thank you, it was cool!

Loved the event!

Great event! (3)

Enjoyed the bus ride also!

Thank you so much! As a single Mom working and in college full time, I could never otherwise do this for my children.

Good time!

It entertained my 18 month old.

Excellent show!

SWC Evaluation Summary

Name of Event: Family Fun Day

Date of Event: 03/27/10

Number attended: 36

Number of forms returned: 10

STATEMENT	Y	N	N/A
1. Have you been to the Gate Bowling Center before?	5	5	0
2. Did you and your kid(s) enjoy bonding with other Ferris Families?	9	0	1
3. Did you meet someone new on this trip?	7	3	0

4. What was the most enjoyable part of the trip?

How we had fun!

Socialization

Winners

Watching my son bowling a spare!

My son scored a 43 on his own!

Arcade

Just having fun!

Seeing the children interact with each other.

Bowling

5. What was the least enjoyable part?

Not enough bowling games.

Too fast.

The wait to bowl.

The kids were tired so we left early.

Nothing

Everything was wonderful!

Comments and Suggestions:

I think this was an excellent experience!

Was fun!

This was great! I didn't expect lunch or arcade tokens. Nice Surprise!

SWC Evaluation Summary
"John Ball Park Zoo"
Spring Semester 2010 – Saturday, April 17, 2010

Number of forms returned: 14

Number of people attended: 45

STATEMENT	1	2	3
1. The departure location was a good place to meet.	12	1	1
2. This is an event the program should continue to sponsor.	13	0	1

3. Have you ever been to "John Ball Park Zoo" before?

Y - 10

N - 4

4. Do you believe your family enjoyed the event?

Y - 10

N - 4

5. Would you visit another Zoo event with SWC in the future?

Y - 10

N - 4

6. What did you like most about the zoo?

-Hanging out with friends!

-I think it is a good zoo for a small area. We really enjoy going every time. My kids love the petting zoo. (3)

-Children's activities

-The penguins

-Lions

-The Aquarium

-The Bears

-The Monkeys

-Kid friendly

-We got collectable stuff for your own pets!

-The animals

-I would suggest that this trip be in the summer or late spring!

-We didn't get to see animals because of the weather.

-The snakes

Comments and/or Suggestions:

-We really enjoy this program! I think you should keep it going!

-Many animals were not out at this time of year.

-Maybe the zoo trip should be reserved for June – September.

-My kids loved it!

-Bigger Bus

-Thank you very much for taking us!

-Fredrick Meijer Garden

SWC Evaluation Summary
"White Caps Baseball"
Spring Semester 2010 – Saturday, April 24, 2010

Number of forms returned: 8

Number of people attended: 24

STATEMENT	1	2	3
1. The overall trip was pleasant and enjoyable.	8	0	0
2. This is an event the program should continue to sponsor.	6	2	0

3. Have you ever seen a "Whitecaps Baseball" game before?

Y - 3

N - 5

4. Do you believe your family enjoyed the event?

Y - 2

N - 6

5. Would you attend a baseball game with SCHOLAR/SWC in the future?

Y - 8

N - 0

6. List other sports events that you'd like to recommend for our programs.

- My kids loved it.
- Detroit Lions football game.
- Griffins hockey game 2.
- Hockey!

Comments and/or Suggestions:

- Go on Sunday!
- Weather could have been nicer.

SWC Evaluation Summary

Name of Event: Narrow Gate Ranch

Date of Event: 05/22/10

Number of forms returned: 9

Number of people attended: 15

STRONGLY AGREE

NEUTRAL

STRONGLY DISAGREE

1

2

3

STATEMENT	1	2	3
1. As SWC this was a fun family atmosphere.	9	0	0
2. This is an event the program should continue to sponsor.	9	0	0

3. Did you enjoy the meal provided while at the event?

Y - 9

N- 0

4. Would you visit another horseback riding event with SWC in the future?

Y - 9

N- 0

5. Have you ever gone horseback riding before?

Y - 5

N- 4

Comments and Suggestions:

Great time!

This was fun!

I had an awesome time!

Students With Childen - Event Expenses						
Fall 2009 & Spring 2010						
Date	Event	Attendance	Vendor	Vendor Exp.	Travel/Reimbursement	Trvl Exp
09/03/09	SWC Promotion		Oriental Trading	\$ 263.29		
09/21/09	SWC Promotion		Oriental Trading-Shipping CR	\$ (47.48)		
09/04/09	SWC Promotion		FSU Catering-Water Bottles	\$ 125.00		
09/08/09	SWC Promotion		Dollar Tree-Gift Bags	\$ 147.00		
09/08/09	SWC Promotion		Dollar Tree-Gift Bags	\$ 160.00		
09/09/09	SWC Promotion		Dollar Tree-Gift Bags/Candy	\$ 18.00		
10/10/09	Championship Bullrider - \$325	21	Event Tickets 50% - SWC/50% - SCHOLAR	\$ 162.50	University Vehicle-\$384.62	\$ 192.31
10/10/09	Championship Bullrider -\$280		Meal Vouchers 50%-SWC/50% - SCHOLAR	\$ 140.00	Michelle Shell	\$ 70.40
10/10/09	Championship Bullrider				Angel Niamtu	\$ 70.40
10/24/09	Craig's Cruiser	34			University Vehicle	\$ 349.64
10/24/09	Craig's Cruiser		Single Ticket Purchase	\$ 8.47		
10/24/09	Craig's Cruiser		Admission Tickets	\$ 605.89		
01/30/10	SWC Appreciation-Invitations		FSU Copy Center-Invitation	\$ 33.50		
01/30/10	SWC Appreciation	13	FSU Catering	\$ 547.50		
01/30/10	SWC Appreciation		Different By Design - Shirts	\$ 334.75		
01/30/10	SWC Appreciation		Office Depot-Portfolios	\$ 28.08		
01/27/10	SWC Appreciation		Walmart-Prizes/Gift Bags	\$ 102.26		
01/30/10	SWC Appreciation		B&Noble-Presenter Awards	\$ 147.99		

Date	Event	Attendance	Vendor	Vendor Exp.	Travel/Reimbursement	Trvl Exp
02/10/10	Office Depot		SWC Event Mailing	\$ 61.15		
02/10/10	Staples		SWC Event Mailing	\$ 43.47		
02/20/10	Outback Stables- Down Pymt-\$75	27	75% - SWC/25% - SCHOLAR	\$ 56.25		
02/20/10	Outback Stables-Final Pymt-\$195		75% - SWC/25% - SCHOLAR	\$ 146.25		
02/20/10	Outback Stables				University Vehicle-\$216	\$ 162.00
02/20/10	Outback Stables				Migemini Sammons	\$ 17.50
02/20/10	Outback Stables				Angel Niamtu	\$ 17.50
02/20/10	Outback Stables				Joy Haley	\$ 17.50
03/07/10	Playhouse Disney	63	Admission Tickets-VanAndel	\$ 303.00		
03/07/10	Playhouse Disney		Add'l Admission Tickets	\$ 990.00		
03/07/10	Playhouse Disney		Meiler-Snack for Bus	\$ 23.82		
03/07/10	Playhouse Disney		Walmart-Snack for Bus	\$ 25.36		
03/07/10	Playhouse Disney				University Vehicle	\$ 349.64
03/07/10	Playhouse Disney				Angel Niamtu	\$ 68.00
03/07/10	Playhouse Disney				Amanda Flagg	\$ 68.50
03/07/10	Playhouse Disney				Michael VanHorn	\$ 61.00
03/20/10	Finding Nemo	62	Admission Tickets-VanAndel	\$ 265.00		
03/20/10	Finding Nemo		Add'l Admission Tickets	\$ 370.00		
03/20/10	Finding Nemo		Walmart-Snack for Bus	\$ 31.27		
03/20/10	Finding Nemo		Meiler-Snack for Bus	\$ 19.84		
03/20/10	Finding Nemo				University Vehicle	\$ 357.64
03/20/10	Finding Nemo				Aric Robertson	\$ 66.00
03/20/10	Finding Nemo				Michael VanHorn	\$ 59.00
03/20/10	Finding Nemo				Angel Niamtu	\$ 66.00
03/27/10	Family Fun Day	36	The Gate-Bowling/Pizza	\$ 291.72		

Date	Event	Attendance	Vendor	Vendor Exp.	Travel/Reimbursement	Trvl Exp
04/15/10	GSC Advocacy Workshop				University Vehicle	\$ 51.00
04/17/10	John Ball Park Zoo	45	Admission Ticket	\$ 146.50		
04/17/10	John Ball Park Zoo		Admission Ticket	\$ 13.00		
04/17/10	John Ball Park Zoo				University Vehicle	\$ 349.64
04/17/10	John Ball Park Zoo				Edyta Boron	\$ 70.00
04/17/10	John Ball Park Zoo				Katherine Flagg	\$ 70.00
04/17/10	John Ball Park Zoo				Angel Niamtu	\$ 70.00
04/17/10	John Ball Park Zoo				Erica Touhill	\$ 70.00
04/17/10	John Ball Park Zoo				Aric Robertson	\$ 70.00
04/24/10	White Caps Game	24	Admission Tickets	\$ 250.00		
04/24/10	White Caps Game		PC Max'd - Balance pd by GreenBay	\$ 26.00		
04/24/10	White Caps Game				University Vehicle	\$ 253.38
04/24/10	White Caps Game				Aric Robertson	\$ 57.00
05/22/10	Horseback Riding	15	Narrow Gate Youth Ranch	\$ 350.00	University Vehicle	\$ 212.00
07/12/10	Mecosta Cty Fair	62	Mecosta Cty Agricultural	\$ 927.00		
07/30/10	Michigan Adventure	62	MI Adventure Park	\$ 1,320.00		
07/30/10	Michigan Adventure				University Vehicle	\$ 488.85
07/30/10	Michigan Adventure				Amanda Flagg	\$ 66.50
07/30/10	Michigan Adventure				Katherine Flagg	\$ 66.50
07/30/10	Michigan Adventure				Angel Niamtu	\$ 74.50
07/30/10	Michigan Adventure				Michael VanHorn	\$ 74.50
			Vendor Subtotal	\$ 8,436.38	Travel Subtotal	\$ 3,754.90
					Total SWC Expenses	\$ 12,191.28
					Amt Paid by Mini Grant	\$ 3,753.00
					Amt Paid by U.C.	\$ 8,438.28