

Diversity and Multi-Cultural
Course Development and Enhancement Grant 2008-09

Introduction

On November 17, 2007, Simpson and Urban Dreams established a collaboration that includes the establishment of the Simpson Urban Studies Institute (SUSI). The mission statement for SUSI is as follows:

The Simpson Urban Studies Institute (SUSI) is the product of collaboration between Urban Dreams and Simpson College. The collaboration unites the on-the-street capabilities of a human service agency with the research capability of an academic institution. The purposes of the collaboration are to provide a service to targeted communities in which persons find themselves culturally isolated and disenfranchised from society's institutions and to increase experiential learning opportunities for Simpson students. SUSI will provide opportunity for faculty-directed research involving undergraduate students that addresses social justice issues and integrates theory with human service programming.

Proposed Course: Cultural Sensitivity Development

The course will be part of a comprehensive cultural competence curriculum designed in partnership with Urban Dreams and other central Iowa agencies to address the particular challenges facing Iowa organizations and professionals working with urban minority youth and their families.

In addition to the three semester hour course development, the course will be structured so that it can be offered in modified form to human service professionals already providing programming in the community for continuing education credits. Once the fully developed a yearly conference on some aspect of cultural competency could be offered on the Simpson campus. The cultural competence curriculum would consist of three components: (1) three semester hour course dealing with cultural sensitivity, (2) topical offerings based on units developed in the Cultural Sensitivity class for human service professionals, and (3) a yearly conference on cultural competency issues. Income from the conferences can be used to support updating of the class.

Course Offering

The course would be offered at least once a year and possibly more frequently. It's frequency of offering will depend on when student groups will be entering experiential learning environments in Des Moines. Cultural Sensitivity Training will be a cornerstone 6 class.

Funding Use

The structural aspects of SUSI are still in the development process. However, the cultural competency component is a key aspect of the original proposal. My hope is to combine the Minority and Multi-Cultural grant funds with other funding sources to pay a two faculty team to develop the course and related aspects of the cultural competency curriculum. In addition to a faculty stipend, the money will be used to interview agency providers in order to compile a series of topics for general consideration regardless of minority or ethnic affiliation as well as culture specific concerns focusing on particular racial, religious, or ethnic groups with a presence in Des Moines.

The objective is to create a class designed to introduce students to trans-cultural issues that students participating in SUSI research projects must take prior to entering the field, however, it would not be limited to SUSI participants. The course will be experiential in nature and will include input from agencies servicing ethnic communities, ethnic community members, and Simpson faculty that have ethnic community expertise.

Student Learning Enhancement

The course will provide a unique opportunity for students to understand the power of culture in determining how it is persons from different cultural traditions see and interpret the world. The course will provide a unique learning experience for students enabling them to connect information learned in the classroom to the applied setting. In addition, the class will add value to the Simpson education for those entering the human service professions, teaching and all students as they deal with a world in which cross-cultural contacts are the rule rather than the exception.

SIMPSON COLLEGE
BUDGET PROPOSAL FORM
Diversity and Multi-Cultural Grant
2008-2009

ITEM		AMOUNT
Equipment		\$ -----
1:	Cost:	
2:	Cost:	
3:	Cost:	
Materials		\$ 600.00
1:books/journals	Cost: \$500.00	
2:office supplies	Cost: \$100.00	
3:	Cost:	
Travel Costs		\$ 388.00
Airfare:		
Mileage: Number of miles 800 @.485/mile		
Lodging		\$ -----
Number of days _____ @ \$ _____ /day		
Other Expenses		\$3000.00
1: stipend @ \$1500	Cost:	
2:stipend @ \$1500	Cost:	
3:	Cost:	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$3988.00
AMOUNT REQUEST (not to exceed \$500)		\$ 500.00

**Diversity and
Multi-Cultural
Course Development
and Enhancement
Grant Application**

**Barb Ramos
January 2008**



Shelly Priebe

From: Barbara Ramos
Sent: Sunday, January 13, 2008 7:38 PM
To: Shelly Priebe; Carolyn Dallinger
Subject: diversity grant application
Attachments: diversity grant 08 final copy.pub

Carolyn and Shelly,

Please find my application for a diversity grant to support the planning and implementation my proposed May term 2009 course, The Carver Legacy in Education: San Antonio. Let me know if you need additional information or have any questions.

Barb Ramos

Description of Proposed Course

The Carver Legacy in Education: San Antonio is a proposed domestic travel course for May term 2009. During the first week of the semester, students will participate in on-campus course work familiarizing themselves with the life and legacy of George Washington Carver. This portion of the course will include readings, writings, presentations, videos, and reflections. In addition, students will visit the Warren County Museum to experience the Carver exhibit. During the second week of the semester students will travel to San Antonio, Texas for field experience and service projects at the Carver Academy. The Carver Academy, founded by David Robinson, is a non-profit private school serving a socio-economically and culturally diverse student population in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. The Carver Academy is dually accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools. In addition to the core subjects, the academy's curriculum includes music, physical education, technology, and three foreign languages (Spanish, German, and Japanese). Simpson students will observe, assist, tutor, and teach with academy mentoring teachers as well as participating in service projects for the school and its community. Due to the nature of the field work at the school, Foundations of Education (Educ114) will be a pre-requisite for the course. After returning to campus, students will process their experience and connect the works of George Washington Carver with the Carver Academy and the Simpson Teacher Education Program. This course will allow Simpson students to experience a school

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environment with many types of diversity and bring Carver's legacy to the forefront. It is hoped that this course will lead to a partnership with the Carver Academy that could include a variety of education and service experiences, possibly including student teaching.

Intended Schedule

It is expected that this course will be offered every two to three years during May term by a member of the education department. It is hoped that a May term experience at the Carver Academy would encourage students to consider a student teaching placement there.

Cornerstone Six

This course is not proposed as a cornerstone six course. While the components of the course are consistent with cornerstone six, education students are required to take Human Relations in Teaching (Educ321) which meets the cornerstone six requirement. Therefore, a cornerstone six designation is not necessary.

Funding

Prior to implementing this course there are several logistical considerations that must be addressed in partnering with the Carver Academy. For example, is there a good match between the educational philosophy of the Carver Academy and the Simpson Teacher Education Program? How many students will the setting accommodate? What service/cultural/educational opportunities exist in the community beyond the course field experience?

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How will we educate the teaching staff at the academy regarding Iowa teacher preparation requirements? Who might be available from a San Antonio college or university to supervise potential student teachers? How will we build a personal relationship with the academy? The funding from the diversity and multi-cultural course development and enhancement grant will allow for two members of the education department, one faculty member and the placement coordinator, to travel to San Antonio and meet with the head of the Carver Academy to address these logistical issues and to visit the academy's classrooms and teachers. The grant will provide funding for airfare, hotel, and meals for this visit. It is expected that the trip will be for two nights and one day during spring break of 2008. Please see the budget form for a more detailed analysis of projected costs. An application for a Lilly Mini-Grant has been prepared to seek additional funding for this project.

Diversity

Students will be engaged in field work in a community that is much more diverse than the settings that are found locally. The Carver Academy describes its student population as socio-economically and culturally diverse. In Iowa it is rare to experience an elementary school which teaches a foreign language. The Carver Academy teaches three foreign languages. Our students will also have an opportunity to experience the academy's daily non-denominational chapel service. In addition to experiencing diversity at the school, students will appreciate the life of George Washington Carver and his living legacy at the academy.

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ITEM		AMOUNT
Equipment		\$
1:	Cost:	NA
2:	Cost:	
3:	Cost:	
Materials		\$
1:	Cost:	NA
2:	Cost:	
3:	Cost:	
Travel Costs		\$ 900
Airfare: \$450 per person with two nights hotel		
Mileage: Number of miles _____ @.485/mile		
Lodging (see above, would book with airfare for a discount)		\$
Number of days _____ @ \$ _____ /day		
Other Expenses		\$ 300
1: meals	Cost: \$200	
2: transportation	Cost: \$100	
3:	Cost:	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 1,200
AMOUNT REQUEST (not to exceed \$500)		\$ 500

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ITEM		AMOUNT
Equipment		\$
1:	Cost:	
2:	Cost:	
3:	Cost:	
Materials		\$
1:	Cost:	
2:	Cost:	
3:	Cost:	
Travel Costs		\$
Airfare:		
Mileage: Number of miles _____ @.485/mile		
Lodging		\$
Number of days _____ @ \$ _____ /day		
Other Expenses		\$
1:	Cost:	
2:	Cost:	
3:	Cost:	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$
AMOUNT REQUEST (not to exceed \$500)		\$