

Grant Proposal

PEC Diversity Committee, The Missouri Chapter National Association for Multicultural Education Annual Conference

Abstract:

The PEC Diversity Sub-committee of the Professional Education Unit, Provost Culture Competence Committee, the College of Education, and the Multicultural Student Services Office are hosting the Missouri Chapter National Association for Multicultural Education Regional Conference on October 10 & 11, 2008 on the campus of Missouri State University. The conference will feature keynote Geneva Gay to open the conference. The opening plenary will be open to all MSU faculty, staff, students and general public with the public affairs grant helping to defray the cost of the keynote speaker. The conference is cross curricular as all colleges are represented and it ties in with our new cultural competency directive from the Office of the Provost.

Description:

The Missouri Chapter National Association for Multicultural Education (MONAME) has elected to hold their regional conference on Missouri State University campus October 10 & 11, 2008. Proposals for presentations and panels are being solicited from across the region to include higher education, K-12, and the community leaders. This chapter represents the Midwest Region VII of the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) that includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. According to their national charter, "NAME was founded in 1990 to bring together individuals from all academic levels and disciplines and from diverse educational institutes, and other organizations, occupations and communities who had an interest in multicultural education." The conference has scheduled on October 10th the opening welcome and Dean's Panel addressing Higher Education and K-12 diversity goals, 2 afternoon sections that included 4 concurrent sessions each, followed by the plenary keynote by world renown multicultural education scholar Professor Geneva Gay (plenary is open free admission to everyone), and closing with a banquet with local entertainment provided by the Missouri State University student organizations and local high school organizations. On October 11th there is a day long series of interactive presentations and panel discussions that are organized into four sections (2 morning and 2 afternoon_ that include 5 concurrent sessions for each section.

Public Affairs Issue:

This conference seeks to advance the Provost initiative on Cultural Competency. The conference theme, "Achieving Academic Excellence Through Multicultural Education" directly addresses for higher education, K-12, and the wider community a variety of cultural competencies. These competencies are identified through theme strands that include: linguistic diversity, cultural course content, infusion of cultural competency skills and dispositions, cross-cultural initiatives, inclusive excellence as well as other current topics regarding cultural competency and diversity issues. Through these strands we seek to include presentations and participation from institutions of higher education, K-12 public and private school districts, and community leaders and agencies throughout the Midwest.

The keynote speaker Professor Geneva Gay, University of Washington-Seattle, teaches curriculum theory and multicultural education courses and is described by her institution accordingly:

She is the recipient of the Distinguished Scholar Award, presented by the Committee on the Role and Status of Minorities in Educational Research and Development of the American Educational Research Association; the first Multicultural Educator Award presented by the National Association of Multicultural Education; the 2004 W.E.B. Du Bois Distinguished Lecturer Award presented by the Special Interest Group on Research Focus on Black Education of the American Educational Research Association; and the 2006 Mary Anne Raywid Award for Distinguished Scholarship in the Field of Education, presented by the Society of Professors of Education. She is nationally and internationally known for her scholarship in multicultural education, particularly as it relates to curriculum design, staff development, classroom instruction, and intersections of culture, race, ethnicity, teaching and learning.

Through our honored keynote and the range of anticipated participants the conference goes to the heart of Missouri State University's Public Affairs Mission.

Objectives & Significance:

We have identified the following objectives and their significance to our community:

- To promote multicultural education and cultural competence across our campus and throughout the wider community
- To engage student, staff, faculty, and community organizations in reviewing and integrating cultural competencies within their mission statements and goals
- To provide staff, faculty, and administration with tools to effectively address cultural concerns for students, staff, and faculty
- To provide faculty with content and strategies to infuse diversity knowledge, skills, and dispositions in their classrooms
- To provide community members, students, staff, faculty, and administrators with cross cultural experiences to enhance their effective cross cultural communication skills and dispositions
- To strengthen our partnerships across higher education, K-12, and community agencies in our effort to develop and maintain an inclusive campus climate for future members (student, staff, faculty, administration, community liaisons) of our campus.

The above objectives indicate the importance of fully supporting the MONAME conference for the benefit of all Missouri State University constituents and partners.

Anticipated Audience & Cross-disciplinary faculty, staff, students:

The anticipated audience for the MONAME conference includes the following groups:

- Paid registrants and presenters (approximately 200-300) from cross disciplinary areas ranging from university and K-12 faculty in education fields to a wide range of content area scholars, i.e. history, political science, sciences, math, health, counseling psychology, gender studies, cultural studies, etc.
- University students – primarily from Missouri State University education programs (over 2600 currently enrolled) as well as education students from the Midwest area and Missouri State who are in content areas with an emphasis in diversity or cultural issues. Several members of the MONAME executive committee have indicated that they plan to bring students (university and high school) to attend the conference.
- University Faculty – those who teach in education programs as well as those who teach in content areas that wish to improve their cultural competency knowledge, skills and dispositions for their courses.
- K-12 administrators and faculty – we have arranged to work with Springfield Public Schools Diversity Coordinator Dr. Nate Quinn to promote the conference in this district as a professional development opportunity and will distribute information to other districts in the 4 state area as well.
- State and local government and business community leaders that are stakeholders in education and civic development.

The PEC Diversity committee has received indications from PEU members and K-12 area districts that there is significant interest in this conference. In addition, we are networking with various organizations, i.e. Meyer Library Special Collections, Multicultural Student Services, to include representation from the groups in conference presentations, as well as, promoting their information and services.

Proposed Use of Grant Funds:

We propose to use grant funds as follows;

Travel, hotel, and per diem for keynote speaker – roundtrip flight Seattle/Springfield ~ 800.00

Hotel and per diem (two nights) ~ 300.00

Keynote Honorarium

2000.00

Equipment rental & technical services (PSU theater)	150.00
Room setup fee	200.00
Supplies, printing for promotional flyers and evening programs	200.00
Postage – Midwest distribution of promotional conference & keynote	150.00
Total:	\$3800.00

We are collecting registration fees to cover all food, folder & main conference program, PSU room fees and equipment. This grant is to offset expenses directly related to promoting and paying for the keynote speaker.