

Instructionally Related Activities Report Form

SPONSOR: Nien-Tsu Nancy Chen & Vivian Henchy (COMM)

PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT: Communication Program

ACTIVITY TITLE: Health Care Reporting in California – Campus-wide Speaking Event

DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: April 11, 2018

Please submit via email to the IRA Coordinator along with any supporting documentation at david.daniels@csuci.edu within 30 days after the activity. Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!

A. ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- (1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY;
 - (2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?
 - (3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?
 - (4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?
 - (5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?
 - (6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?
 - (7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)
 - 8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.
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B. ATTENDEE LIST- SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:

In addition to the report form, *in a separate document*, attach to your email a list of attendees complete with each student major and grade level. This for IRA Committee reference only and will not be published on the IRA website. Include your name and the title of your IRA activity on the document.

C. IMAGES FROM ACTIVITY:

Finally, attach to your email up to 6 images demonstrating student participation (under 2 MB total) with captions/titles. Please attach these photos in .JPEG format directly to email. Thank you!

(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

With the support of the IRA funds, journalist Claudia Boyd-Barrett visited CSUCI to give a guest lecture on health care reporting in California on April 11, 2018. She began by introducing her own journey into journalism from a college graduate with a double major in Sociology and Spanish. She highlighted the fact that one doesn't have to major in journalism to become a journalist. Rather, she considered a passion for writing, curiosity about the world, and learning by doing more important qualities that make a journalist. Since we don't have a journalism major at CSUCI, it is encouraging for the students to know this is a career path they can still pursue if they desire.

Next, she talked about her recent specialization in health care coverage in California and presented a variety of stories she has written about pressing health issues in our state. She began by providing an overview of the health care challenges brought about by the rising number of seniors in California before presenting some innovative solutions hospitals and social service organizations have developed to address these challenges.

She then moved on to explain how issues relevant to social, cultural, political, economic, educational, and environmental realities interact with each other to shape Californians' health outcomes. She presented several reports that investigated how the Trump administration's immigration policy and tariff proposals can influence individual health, as well as how environmental hazards, such as climate change and wild fires, can have long-term effects on people's physical and psychological wellbeing.

Next, Claudia presented one of her most recent projects focusing on mental health issues among college students in California. She described how the story idea originated, the type of research she conducted in order to obtain updated local information about use of counseling service in colleges in California, the stakeholders she interviewed, and the challenges she faced while trying to cover this topic. She described key findings from her reports that showed a drastic increase of mental health issues among college students in our state over the past decade, and the sub-standard counselor-to-student ratios in many colleges. She concluded by explaining some of the potential causes of the emerging mental health crisis and some effective solutions that have been developed to assist college students. Students in the audience were fascinated by Claudia's work on this topic, as it is something that has affected young people like them, and perhaps someone they know or even themselves.

After presenting examples of her work, Claudia gave students a list of tips on how to find good stories to write about. Students then had a chance to practice this newly gained knowledge by engaging in a group activity, where each team had to identify a health story they consider worth covering and list three sources whom should be interviewed for the story.

The guest speaker then opened up the floor for Q&A. Students had a number of questions regarding the health stories she presented, as well as the process and content of journalistic

production. She then concluded by providing a list of resources that students can look into for professional opportunities if they are interested in a career in journalism.

Throughout her talk, Claudia used examples to emphasize how journalism, especially health care reporting, can make a difference in the world, and many in the audience felt inspired by her.

(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

Students from different classes and majors participated in this guest lecture. Among them, the majority of the students came from COMM/NRS 441 Health Communication, COMM 325 Health Media Campaigns, and COMM 495 Health Film and Speaker Series.

COMM/NRS 441 Health Communication is designed to provide an overview of key perspectives, theories, concepts and current issues related to health communication at multiple levels, including intrapersonal, interpersonal, mediated, community and policy levels. By speaking about some of the most recent assignments she has worked on, Claudia enabled students to see how issues relevant to social, cultural, political, contemporary/ historical, economic, educational, and psychological realities interact with one other to shape health outcomes in California, which constitutes a key learning outcome for COMM/NRS 441. In addition, Ms. Boyd-Barrett shared her professional experience and personal reflection on journalism and inspired some students to consider pursuing a career in journalism, especially health care reporting.

For COMM 325 and COMM 495, Claudia's guest lecture met the following student learning outcomes:

- Understand the process of researching, designing, implementing and evaluating health communication campaigns;
- Be knowledgeable about the multilevel communication mechanisms (e.g. interpersonal, mediated, and community-based) that can be utilized by campaign developers; and,
- Identify current critical health issues.

Ms. Boyd-Barrett discussed tangible, community-based examples of relevant health care issues around the state, such as the addressing the mental health crisis among college and university students, examining the disparity of health care access and coverage, studying problems of aging and isolation, and many other critical health needs in our state. She also discussed the various channels of communication she uses to get her stories out into the public for consumption.

(3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?

Claudia's career path began with volunteering as a teacher in Mexico and getting hired by an Mexican newspaper to translate and later write stories for the English version of their paper. Her

personal experience demonstrated to the students that one can succeed as a journalist without having a degree in the field, and this encouraged some students to consider professional opportunities in journalism. Having worked as a journalist for the past 15 years, Claudia was able to share a wide range of stories she has covered with the students and prompted them to think about the inter-related nature of health, political, economic, cultural and environmental issues in our society. Her work in our region in covering the Thomas Fires, mental health among college students, and the health effects of immigration policy really spoke to the students, as they have all been personally affected, or know someone who has been affected, by one of these issues. By presenting findings from her investigative reports, she helped enhance students' knowledge about these challenges that continue to influence their daily lives, as well as some effective solutions that can help tackle these issues.

(4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?

Although her topic was health care reporting, which was relevant and on task for the entire audience, her lecture did spend significant time on health care journalism as a career. Some students did not find this piece useful, but they still remarked that they appreciated her enthusiasm for her career choice.

(5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?

Based on the weakness identified, if we have a chance to invite Ms. Boyd-Barrett to provide another guest lecture, we will ask her to spend less time on discussing health care journalism as a career and more time on sharing the findings and processes from her most recent projects. As discussed, while not all students are interested in exploring professional opportunities in journalism, they all enjoy learning about the health issues Claudia has investigated and written about.

(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?

We learned that it is invaluable for students to hear from someone who is an experienced practitioner. By looking at real-life news stories Claudia has written and videos she has produced, it was so easy for the students to see how issues relevant to social, cultural, political, economic, educational, and environmental realities interact with each other to shape health outcomes. Claudia was also able to share with the students the joy and challenges that come with her work to provide a realistic understanding of how a career in journalism might entail.

(7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA



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Attendees at the guest lecture were encouraged to write a brief reflection on their experience. Their reflections are overwhelmingly positive, and below is a snapshot of the responses:

“I never knew health could be covered in a wide variety of topics such as immigration, homelessness, racism, economics, politics, and the environment. Claudia gave several examples of stories that fell under these topics.” (Student #1)

“Some of the articles and the things she has written about are the very things that draw me to becoming a nurse. While working I have seen the sadness of elderly people being ignored and left to themselves to become lonely shells of the people they were. It is nice to see that she is actively looking for stories to protect these vulnerable populations.” (Student #2)

“I had never previously considered journalism, but after her presentation I have an interest in seeing if it is something I would enjoy.” (Student #3)

“One particular story that stood out was when Boyd-Barrett covered a project on students who are in crisis on college campuses. Boyd-Barrett’s research mirrored our exact class assignment in creating a health media campaign!” (Student #4)

“It was interesting to learn about the role of a journalist in healthcare. I look forward to reading Claudia’s work one day and be able to learn more about issues in healthcare with seniors and college students.” (Student #5)

“Going into the lecture I expected the guest speaker to talk about statistic and other very official information. I believed that health care reporting had to be like the magazines in doctors’ offices or peer reviewed reports. I was very surprised to find out that Health Care reporting is actually very creative, which I loved. I enjoyed listening to the way she found her stories and that though her research she was able to give a voice to those that might not have it.” (Student #6)

“The thing I liked the most about Claudia Boyd-Barret’s talk was that she did an excellent job selling health care journalism as a viable career by listing all the interesting details about it such as learning about the drama that occurs and the endless plethora of stories a journalist has at his disposal.” (Student #7)

“It was clear from Claudia’s talk to the audience that she was very passionate about what she does.” (Student #8)

“Claudia’s presentation was extremely insightful into the world of journalism! [She writes about] ...access to healthcare (Medi-Cal, Covered CA, and disparities), mental health, different populations (seniors, the poor, youth, immigrants), and medical studies (pregnancies). Linking this to class reading, Claudia uses two channels for her published work through newspapers and websites (DuPre, 2014).” (Student #9)

“The takeaway from this that it is very important to look around us and realize that there are stories everywhere. In order to do this, we need to be more observant and try to understand those around us. We tend to only be amazed by the stories we read about in newspapers or see on the news. This lecture made me realize that these stories are happening all around us, and that it is people like Claudia Boyd-Barrett that are able to see them and capture them.” (Student #10)

“She writes about topics that I as a Sociology major is interested in, such as homelessness in Ventura County, the growing number of seniors, and the struggles of healthcare among immigrants. Those three topics are major for me because I am currently writing a paper on homelessness, I volunteer in hospice care, and my parents are immigrants from Mexico. I liked how she has to work with a variety of different people in various fields like medical professionals, social workers, and healthcare advocates to get the story to make sense.” (Student #11)

“[A] key takeaway was that being a journalist gives you a chance to tell endless stories, with accurate sources, to make a difference in the world, and insight on how important writing stories is.” (Student #12)

“According to Boyd-Barrett... mental health is much more sought out, and that there were not enough counselors to serve their respective student populations. What is interesting was her discussion of variables; this was discussed in course lecture in relation to looking into a campaign’s effectiveness and that confounding variables can play a role. For instance, Boyd-Barrett mentioned how more students may be trying to get help with their mental health because there is not as much stigma as there used to be, as well as more resources, such as medication, available for the population as a whole; she explained that these factors could have influenced the results of the study she was part of conducting.” (Student #13)

[The video on Once Isolated in the Tenderloin, Seniors Find Friendship... featured] “a senior man who used to make a living playing guitar on busses in El Salvador and Guatemala. He... had a lifelong passion for music... Now he lives in a low-income housing track and lives in solitude, rarely leaving his apartment. This video showed the man speaking in Spanish... [with] his social worker... and how they...connect through music. This video made me extremely emotional because I grew up in a building full of older people who lived in solitude.” (Student #14)

“Claudia also had our class break into groups to discuss a health-related issue, and the individuals, agencies, and organizations that can be reached to gain more information about the matter at hand. This was a great exercise because it related the concept of a story with the people directly affected by it and offered insight on how to approach a story or campaign. It is important to always start with an audience and stakeholder analysis.” (Student #15)

[The group activity] “helped us get in the mindset of how health journalism works and how journalists get their information for a story.” (Student #16)



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(8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.

Speaker Honoraria	<u>\$1000.00</u>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$1000.00</i>

**B. ON SEPARATE DOCUMENT, PLEASE ATTACH ATTENDEE LIST
(PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFO REMOVED)**



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**PLEASE INCLUDE UP TO 6 IMAGES AS ATTACHMENTS TO YOUR
SUBMISSION**





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C H A N N E L I S L A N D S



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C H A N N E L I S L A N D S

A PRESENTATION BY AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST
CLAUDIA BOYD-BARRETT

HEALTH CARE REPORTING IN CALIFORNIA

DATE & TIME: 10:00 - 11:45 AM
ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11
LOCATION: SIERRA HALL 1422



THIS TALK WILL EXPLORE MEDIA COVERAGE OF MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND OTHER IMPORTANT HEALTH CARE STORIES IN OUR STATE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL NANCY CHEN AT NIEN-TSU.CHEN@CSUCI.EDU OR VIVIAN HENCHY AT VIVIAN.HENCHY@CSUCI.EDU