



### ***Instructionally Related Activities Report Form***

SPONSOR	DEPARTMENT
Matt Cook / Sean Kelly	Library / Political Science

ACTIVITY TITLE	DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY
Transportation for Outstanding Learning Opportunity	9/13/2012

#### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

Attach:

- 1) Student evaluations or assessments
- 2) Please list the number of students participating for each segment of the activity. For overnight activities please include the names, majors, and graduation dates of students on a separate sheet. (Student names are for internal IRA use only and will not be published)
- 3) Images demonstrating student participation (up to 6 images)
- 4) A summary of expenses

E-mail to the IRA Coordinator at [lisa.ayre-smith@csuci.edu](mailto:lisa.ayre-smith@csuci.edu) within 30 days after the activity.

*It is recommended that sponsors also retain copies of reports for your records.*

*Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!!*

On September 13, we took students from "Inside the Black Box: Political Science and the Use of Archival Materials," (UNIV-198) a SPIRaL funded class co-taught by Matt Cook and Sean Kelly, to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. There, students were met by the Archivist of the Reagan Archives, Mike Duggan, who both provided us with a behind the scenes tour as well as lectured on archival principles. This travel and the lecture were directly related to our course student learning outcomes\* and time spent at the archives positively impacted our own work processing Congressman Bizz Johnson's Collection house in the JS Broome Library archives.

The most important benefit was the illustration of converting raw archives (i.e., unprocessed, yet to be described papers) into a research resource. Absent this visit, I'm not sure our students would have understood how much work goes into preserving, describing, organizing, housing, and serving an archival collection. Another important component of the visit was witnessing how the archivists there manage audio and visual media. The complexity of responsibilities that archive employees have was very educational and entertaining for our students.

Were we to do this again, I would advocate for a full day's visit. There is so much happening at the Reagan Library that we could have extended our stay.

Personally, I learned that transporting a class of students safely is much more expensive than it

should be. But I also learned that the professionals at the Reagan Library are engaged, engaging, and eager to teach others what it is that they do.

\*The below is taken from our syllabus:

**Course Objectives:**

Students who successfully complete this course will:

- Use relevant tools in various contexts to present and/or integrate ideas,
- Access needed information effectively and efficiently,
- Convey how issues relevant to social, cultural, political, contemporary/historical, economic, educational, or psychological realities interact with each other,
- Evaluate information and its sources critically,
- Explain the economic, legal, social, and ethical issues surround the use of information.

Students will also be able to:

- Understand better basic data visualization techniques
- Utilize primary resources
- Make connections between personal circumstances and broader political, social, and cultural issues
- Understand how theory-based decisions about the organization and description of a collection affect how researchers use these collections
- Complete basic archival activities including organization, preservation, description, and access of primary collections
- Distinguish from and utilize both qualitative and quantitative data
- Critically apply and analyze various arguments concerning these transformative issues; and
- Be empowered with the ability to translate knowledge into sound judgment and action.

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