

To: IRA Granting Committee; David Daniels (Instructionally Related Activities Coordinator);
Christina Smith (Communication Program Chair)

From: Tracylee Clarke, Professor of Communication

Re: IRA Grant Report #1010: Community Member Mediation Coaching & Guest Speaker

Date: May 20, 2019

This document provides a report and assessment of Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) Grant #1010 *Community Member Mediation Coaching* used for honorariums given to community mediator coaches and guest speaker Brittany James in Spring 2019. What follows is a description of pedagogical approach, assessment of funded activity as it relates to learning outcomes, experience responses from students, faculty and the community, and use of funding.

I. Pedagogical Experience Overview

Brittany James, Community Mediator and Advocate and an Instructor at Rio Salado College spoke to students enrolled in *COMM 340: Conflict Management & Mediation* about restorative justice and community conflict resolution practices focusing on community peace-building and empowerment. In addition, students enrolled in a *COMM 340: Conflict Management & Mediation* must conduct a simulated role-play mediation for their final exam. For the past 10 years, mediation coaches from the community have attended the final mediation, coached students, assessed their performance and provided feedback through both a written rubric and one-on-one individual conversations with each student. This has proven to be a highly valuable experience for the students as they are provided real-time contextual feedback from experts who are successful and current in their field. This experience also serves as a networking opportunity for students who continue their career in conflict management - a common area within our program. Among the coaches are alumni students who have chosen mediation as a career and are now practicing mediators. Engagement between our students and community members is a hallmark of CI and this experience supports that tradition.

II. Relation to Course Curriculum

This activity relates specifically to *COMM 340: Conflict Management & Mediation*, a required course for all communication majors and an optional UDGE-D and/or Mission Pillar-Interdisciplinary Approaches course for all majors. Course learning outcomes it specifically supports include:

- 1) Identify, critically analyze and improve their own negotiation and conflict management skills, and,
- 2) Identify the role of language and dialogue in the construction, maintenance and resolution of conflict.
- 3) Convey how issues relevant to social, cultural, political, and historical realities interact with each other and support the resolution of interpersonal, organizational and community conflict.

III. Assessment of Student Learning

Content from Ms. James' presentation was part of the final exam for the course. Student meditations are assessed through both written (rubric provided) and oral feedback (individual one-on-one conversations) on their ability to accurately explain the mediation process, use mediation communication skills such as summarizing, reframing and question-asking, and help parties identify issues and problem-solve.

IV. Participant Response & Evaluation

A. Student Response & Evaluation

Students enjoy both the guest lecture from Ms. James and the community mediation coaching live final experience. The activity has gotten a reputation as one of the hallmark experiences in the communication program. Many students appreciate the real-time feedback from current experts in the field and respond positively to both praise and constructive feedback from the mediator coaches.

B. Faculty Response & Evaluation

Involving community mediators in my final assessment allows me to support hands on pedagogy where students truly demonstrate communication and conflict management skills. It is a pleasure to work with community members and draw on their experience and expertise as I help shape my students into better communicators and citizens.

C. Community Response & Evaluation

Community members are very supportive of this initiative and our students. They give thorough feedback and seek to help students understand the relevance of this experience even if they do not choose to become mediators in the future. Although the honorarium is not the typical hourly rate they charge, they are happy to engage with our students to provide mentorship and/or networking opportunities.

Over the years, I have modified the process based on both community mediator and student feedback about the role of the community mediator, length of mediation, and grading schematic/rubric.

V. Budget

The total budget for this grant was \$6000. Funds were used to support honorariums for guest lecturer Ms. James and community mediator coaches for Spring 2019. A breakdown of expenditures is as follows:

<u>Honorariums</u>	<u>Price</u>
Brittany James	\$1000
Community Mediators (varied amounts based on attendance and travel)	\$4200
Total Expenses: \$5200	

VI. Student Attendance

COMM 340: Conflict Management & Mediation is a required course for communication majors and an optional UDGE-D and/or Mission Pillar- Interdisciplinary Approaches course for all majors.

Bastida, Xate
Bentecourt, Hunter
Butalla, Juliana
Cronin-Brown, Melissa
Dominguez, Micaela
Duncan, Tyler Jacob
Garcia, Jennifer
Garcia, Jorge
Garcia, Tiffani
Gentile, Kathryn
Griffiths, Emma
Grimaldo, Alyssa
Gutierrez, Jennifer
Hernandez Nunez,
Leao, Sofia
Lowe, Marisa
Lupian, Loretta
Martinez, Diana
Mccurry, shea-aiko
Morris, Evan Drake
Murphy, Jessica Elena
Odahara, Joshua

Ramirez, Robert
Rigaud, Melissa
Rohr, Perry
Segura, Melissa
Semus, Spencer
Sosa-Moreno, Sebastian
Soto Fabian, Zarisbeth
Watley, Vivian S
Williams, Grace
Williams, Vanessa
Wurgley, Erin B
Allison, Hannah
Brashear, Alec Jay
Brito, Abigail
Burruss, CJ
Carrillo Arredondo, Estrella
Channels, Nicholas
Espinosa, Joseph
Fistonich, Sean
Fuentes, Erika
Johnson, Alviana
Kolb, Bryce G

Meske, Destiny
Morataya, Priscilla
Oden, Randall
Oliver, David
Ponce, Kayleigh Marie
Rivera, Steven
Rose-Arnold, Kira
Sanchez, Brenda
Sanchez, Kaylen Christina
Santos, Sofia
Slatlem, McKenna Marie
Smith, Dakota K
Sowa, Mallory
Stott, Alexander William
Stott, Nathaniel Robert
Tello, Aaron Michael
Tolin, Garrett Alexander
Trigueros, Elena Diana
Viesca, Adrianna Marie
Walker, Cheyanne
Williams, Jentri

VII. Sample Pictures



Brittany James
Community Advocate & Mediator

