Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Fall 2017

IRA Funds Request for Back to the Future: Lessons from the St. Francis Dam Tragedy for Today

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Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Summary

Project Sponsor	Jose Alamillo
Activity Title	Back to the Future: Lessons from the St. Francis Dam Tragedy for Today
Activity/Event Date	Fall 2017
Date Funding Needed By	July 12917
Previously Funded?	No
Semester/Year	—
Proposal #	—
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity?	No
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity	—
Additional Report #1	—
Additional Report #2	—
Additional Report #3	—
Additional Proposers	Monica Pereira, Library Cindy Wyels, Mathematics Georgina Guzman, English Julia Omelas-Higdon, History Linda O'Hirok, ESRM Luis Sanchez, Sociology Gregory Wood, Physics
Academic Program(s) / Center Name(s)	Chicana/o Studies Program Library Program Mathematics Program Sociology Program English Program History Program Physics Program ESRM Program
Estimated total Course Fee revenue	n/a
Amount Requested from IRA	6,124
Estimated Number of Students Participating	500
Conditions and Considerations	Artist/Performer/Speaker Fees & Honoraria, Field Trip
Brief Activity Description	The publication of Jon Wilkman's Floodpath: The Deadliest Man-Made Disaster of 20th Century America and the Making of Modern Los Angeles is a timely reminder about the importance of learning from the past. The author deliver a campus presentation to discuss the circumstances under which the St. Francis Dam was built and then destroyed. The St. Francis Dam Disaster ranks as the worst civil engineering disaster in California history. On March 12, 1928, right before midnight, the St. Francis Dam cracked apart releasing over 12 billion gallons of water on the sleeping communities downstream. Despite the damage and lives destroyed, this important event seems to have washed out of recent memory. Recently, U.S. Congress approved H.R. 5244 authorizes the Dept. of Agriculture to establish the St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial at the former dam site near Santa Clarita, to honor the victims of the disaster. The recent Oroville Dam spill in Northern California has stirred interest on the public safety and environment impacts of dams, yet again. This IRA Proposal will include a series of interdisciplinary activities to educate the CI Students about this important historical tragedy. The Second activity will be taking students to the former St. Francis dam site. This tour will be led by the president of the Santa Clarita Historical Society, Allan Pollock. The third activity, the Broome Library will host an exhibition on the St. Francis Dam disaster and offer student-led tours to local community groups and high school classes. The final activity is to conduct a workshop on the material properties of concrete led by Physics professors at CSUCI. The learning objectives will include: (1) Understanding the scale on which the dam was constructed (2) Appreciating the site of the dam in relation to the affected communities downstream. (3) Examining the role that Powerhouse 2 currently plays in hydroelectricity generation for the surrounding communities (Powerhouse 2 was washed away during the flood) (4) Connecting the Dam Disaster to the Santa Paula community to appreciate the long lasting impact of this disaster to present-day attempt to commemorate this historical event. This IRA Activity offers a chance to introduce local, national, and global history to CI Students through a unique historical event that has important social, political and environmental implications today. This event will include a multicultural component that will examine the reasons why most of the victims were working class Mexican Americans who lived along the Santa Clara River. The proposal seeks to students with the politics of commemoration and questions about the human cost of development; critical questions of urban planning; teamwork in engineering, and not least -- how to think about (calculus) integration through estimating the hydrostatic pressure against the dam. It also engages the negotiations between urban and rural water needs, the tension that affect remembering and forgetting local history, and the political pressures that come to bear on the decision making processes that disenfranchise vulnerable communities.

Learning Outcomes and Relation to IRA to Course Offerings	We have a total of 7 courses that are part of this interdisciplinary project. Below is the course name, title and activity. Please see attached learning outcomes in a separate attachment. (1) Jose Alamillo CHS331 Students will read and analyze local newspapers coverage of the St. Francis Dam Disaster, including the newly discovered and digitized La Voz de la Colonia, a Spanish newspaper published in Santa Paula, California from 1926 to 1932. (2) Cindy Wyels, MATH151 Students will think about (calculus) integration through estimating the hydrostatic pressure against the dam. (3) Georgina Guzman, ENGL353 Students will read and analyze the corrido (Corrido de la Inundacion de la Presa de San Francisquito) by Juan Encinas that was published by a Mexican American resident of Santa Paula, CA (4) Julia Ornelas-Higdon, HIST369 Students will analyze primary sources from the St. Francis Dam Disaster Archive located at the Broome Library, Huntington Library and the Museum of Ventura County. (5) Linda O'Hirok, ESRM463 Students will study water management problems of dams throughout California and identify possible causes and evaluate possible solutions. (6) Gregory Wood, UNIV492 Students will examine the material properties of concrete and then participate in the workshop as part of the IRA proposal. (7) Luis Sanchez, SOC303 . There is considerable quantitative research that examines the effects of natural disasters on population change (among other consequences). I could assign empirical articles that would both reinforce statistical concepts covered AND relate to the substantive topics of natural disasters and environmental issues.
Description of Assessment Process	Assessment: Each class will assess its activities Students will complete an evaluation after the tour to SF Dam Site Photographs of the trip will be attached to the evaluation
Activity Budget	1617IRARegularTravelbudgets.xlsx
CIA Budget	—
CIA Proposal	—
Course Syllabus	—
CIA Certification	—
Other Sources of Funding	N/A
Target Audience/Student Marketing	Students of the aforementioned classes. CI Faculty and staff CI surrounding community
Bring Benefit to Campus	—
Sustainability	This IRA proposal connects the building of dams to water resource management and the exposes the arguments about rural and urban water needs.
Program Chair/Director	frank.barajas
Dean	james.meriwether
Acknowledgement	I acknowledge that I have reviewed and accepted the Conditions and Considerations herein. Please check off boxes as appropriate.

Program Chair/Director Review

Recommendation	I recommend approval of the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Frank Barajas
Date/Time	3/3/2017 3:32:26 PM
Validation	myCI-signin-GN-6311
Comments	This program girds the university's commitment to interdisciplinarity.

Dean Review

Recommendation	I recommend approval of the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	James Meriwether
Date/Time	3/7/2017 7:40:48 PM
Validation	myCI-signin-TW-7073
Comments	—

IRA Committee Decision

Decision	—
Comments	—

Current Tasks

Task	Time Assigned	Assigned To
IRA Committee Decision	3/7/2017 7:40:48 PM	David Daniels

Completed Tasks

Task	Time Assigned	Time Completed	Completed By
Review from james.meriwether, Dean	3/3/2017 3:32:26 PM	3/7/2017 7:40:48 PM	James Meriwether
Review from frank.barajas, Program Chair/Director	3/3/2017 3:14:18 PM	3/3/2017 3:32:26 PM	Frank Barajas
Fill out Request	3/1/2017 9:22:27 AM	3/3/2017 3:14:18 PM	Jose Alamillo

Actions

- IRA Committee Decision
- View IRA Funds Request