

Ferris State University
Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant Application

I. Identification

Name of Primary Applicant: Karen GreenBay

Members of Team:

Co-Sponsors: SCHOLAR Program and University College

Department or Unit: SCHOLAR Program

Campus Address: 820 Campus Drive, ASC 1017K

Telephone: 231-591-5034

E-mail address: greenbak@ferris.edu



II. Event Title (25 words or less)

Students with Children (SWC) – Tour of Museums

III. Specific core value, strategic initiative, or goal related to diversity that the event will address. (See the University Strategic Plan and the Diversity Plan)

Core Values: Collaboration, diversity, ethical community, excellence, learning and opportunity

Strategic Initiatives: Goals 2, 5

Diversity Plan:

1. Create a University that is welcoming to diverse populations
4. Create environments for student learning that are inclusive of and sensitive to a diverse student population

The Students with Children program itself relates to all the core values of the University. This proposal, however is focused on diversity. The Tour of Museums objective also relates to the diversity goal because underserved population of student participants have an opportunity to learn about different cultures, animal species, art, creativity, and history.

IV. Abstract (150-200 word, use additional paper if necessary). If the application is approved the abstract will be posted on the Diversity and Inclusion Office website.

University College and the Students with Children program are pleased to request a diversity mini grant for Ferris students and their families to enhance their education via a “Tour of Museums”. The growing number of underserved college students with children has inspired University College to seek, identify, and support the needs of this population. Funding for this event will allow participants to engage in a cohesive series of group learning experiences that will increase awareness of historical landmarks and scientific phenomena, and introduce museum learning to families so they may explore more museums in the future. The museums selected are located in Big Rapids and surrounding cities in Michigan; with the conclusion of the tour being hosted at the Adler Planetarium and the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, Illinois. The Chicago museum tour will be an overnight experience to spend quality time at two of the largest museums in our region.

V. Event Narrative (up to 4 pages single-spaced)

a. The conceptual framework that explains how the event will augment Ferris’s long-term commitment to diversity.

The Students with Children program provides support for the traditional and non-traditional student population that attend Ferris State University by including the student parents who feel they are often overlooked and excluded from the general enrollment due to their family status. This innovative strategy of support targets an under-represented and under-served group of students. This diverse educational experience has the potential to heighten awareness about history and science for college students and their families.

The museums listed below are appropriate for a variety of age groups represented at Ferris State (ranging from ages 1-60+) and will allow families to choose the museum tour(s) that best “fits” their family structure and interest. These events not only build Ferris student-family relationships by supporting positive family interactions for our students, but also inspire their children by leaving long lasting memories that they can share with their peers. The SWC program would like to conclude the “Tour of Museums” by exposing participants to two of the world’s largest museums; The Adler Planetarium and The Museum of Science and Industry. This trip would be blended with other attractions downtown Chicago and plan for overnight accommodations.

Participants who attend The Tour of Museums, other programs offered by SWC, and take advantage of the University and community resources develop a bond with Ferris and each other that will strengthen and promote ties to the University community. SWC participants are more likely to be retained and graduate from Ferris in comparison to families who choose not to take advantage of the family resources.

As the coordinator, Karen GreenBay, has had discussion with individuals who are willing to volunteer their time to serve as chaperones so these family adventures can become a reality for our students. Listed below are the possible volunteers. The number of volunteers required will depend upon the number of families that actually participate in the Chicago trip.

GreenBay, Karen	Program Coordinator	University College
Lukusa-Barnett, Gloria	Faculty, Devel. Curriculum	University College
Strickland, Okai*	Adult Part-time	University College
Watson, Judy	TIP Coordinator	University College

*This position is an adult part-time and will be paid for the time during the museum tour by University College; but the employee has agreed to volunteer her time for overnight accommodations. Included below is a brief description of the museums that the proposed grant would cover.

Air Zoo, Portage, MI

SWC families which are able to tour the “Air Zoo” museum in Kalamazoo, Michigan will gain knowledge of this aviation museum and be able to take that knowledge into their respective classrooms.

Museum Description, “The Air Zoo, founded as the Kalamazoo Aviation History Museum, is an aviation museum and indoor amusement park adjacent to the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek International Airport in Portage, Michigan. The Air Zoo holds many historical and rare aircraft, including the world’s largest air-breathing aircraft, the SR-71B Blackbird. Many of its antique planes are airworthy. . .”

Card Wildlife Education Center, Ferris State University, Big Rapids

The location of this museum allows us to start our tour on the Ferris campus; to increase awareness to families of this museum features that are available to families at no admission and transportation cost for future visits.

Museum Description, “The Card Wildlife Education Center is a 5,000 square foot facility located on the ground floor of the Arts and Sciences Commons building (Room 011) on the Ferris State University Campus in Big Rapids, Michigan. The primary function of the Card Wildlife Education Center and Wildlife Museum is to serve as an educational resource for Ferris State University college students, K-12 school children, and members of the Michigan Community.”

Charles Wright Museum, Detroit, MI

Participants gain an understanding of history of African Americans when they attend this historical museum through exhibitions of; And Still We Rise, The Heidelberg Project, Framed Stories and many more.

Museum Description, “The Charles H. Wright Museum is the largest institution dedicated to the African American experience! The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History provides learning opportunities, exhibitions, programs, and events based on collections and research that explore the diverse history and culture of African Americans and their African origins...”

Flint Children’s Museum, Flint, MI

Parents have an opportunity to watch their children gain excitement with over 40 hands-on educational activities at this children’s museum.

Museum Description, “The Flint Children’s Museum exists to inspire discovery, learning and imagination through exploration and hands-on play. Our museum serves as an indispensable resource for families and educators, helping to create a broad community network devoted to our children’s development and learning. The Flint Children’s Museum is a cultural institution committed to the needs and interests of children. . .”

Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids, MI

This museum was selected so SWC families had an opportunity to explore this scientific museum through their exhibits, planetarium, and carousel.

Museum Description, “The Grand Rapids Public Museum has 80,000 square feet of exhibits on three floors, an entertaining exploration of the treasures and curiosities of West Michigan will delight all ages. Exhibits cover cultural and natural history of the area, with a vast array of rare and curious objectives that pique every type of interest from age 8 to 80.”

Henry Ford Museum, Detroit, MI

Participants who choose to attend the Henry Ford Museum will gain a better understanding of how the auto industry changed the world through imagination.

Museum Description, “The Henry Ford Museum provides unique educational experiences based on authentic objects, stories, and lives from America’s traditions of ingenuity, resourcefulness and innovation. Our purpose is to inspire people to learn from these traditions to help shape a better future. With a rich and diverse offering of exhibits, demonstrations, programs and reenactments, The Henry Ford celebrates yesterday’s traditions as well as today’s innovations...”

Impression 5 Science Center, Lansing, MI

This Center was selected because of their interactive hands-on workshops in areas of biospheres, circuit builders, light, magnets, and more. Participants can learn about chemistry, biology, physics and/or solar energy in a fun and exciting environment.

Museum Description, “Impression 5 is a hands-on learning environment that challenges its visitors to experience, discover, and explore the world in which they live. Impression 5 achieves this by producing hands-on exhibits and participatory programs.”

Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, IL

Participants who are eligible to attend the Museum of Science and Industry, as well as the Adler Planetarium will undoubtedly have the experience of their life. Being able to visit the largest science museum and planetarium is only a dream for some of the families.

Museum Description, “Chicago’s Museum of Science and Industry, one of the largest science museums in the world, is home to more than 35,000 artifacts and nearly 14 acres of hands-on exhibits designed to spark scientific inquiry and creativity. Even bigger than our mission is our vision, which is to inspire and motivate our children to achieve their full potential in the fields of science, technology, engineering and medicine. . .”

Sandcastles Children’s Museum, Ludington, MI

Families would enjoy this unique children’s museum as they discover the play area exhibits consisting of a grocery store, ice cream shop, bank, and post office.

Museum Description, “The mission of Sandcastles Children’s Museum is to create an environment that encourages and inspires children and families to explore their world, offering hands on discovery while stimulating creativity, curiosity, the love of learning, cultural awareness, and positive interactions within and among families.”

The Adler Planetarium, Chicago, IL

Museum Description, “The Adler Planetarium, America’s First Planetarium, was founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler. The museum is home to three full-size theaters, extensive space science exhibitions, and one of the world’s most important antique astronomical instrument collections on display. The Adler is a recognized leader in science education, with a focus on inspiring young people, particularly women and minorities, to pursue careers in science.”

The Spirit of the Woods Museum, Williamsburg, MI

The Spirit Museum offers a combination of wildlife exhibits and Native American Artifacts. Families can see how tools made by ancient people were used to survive.

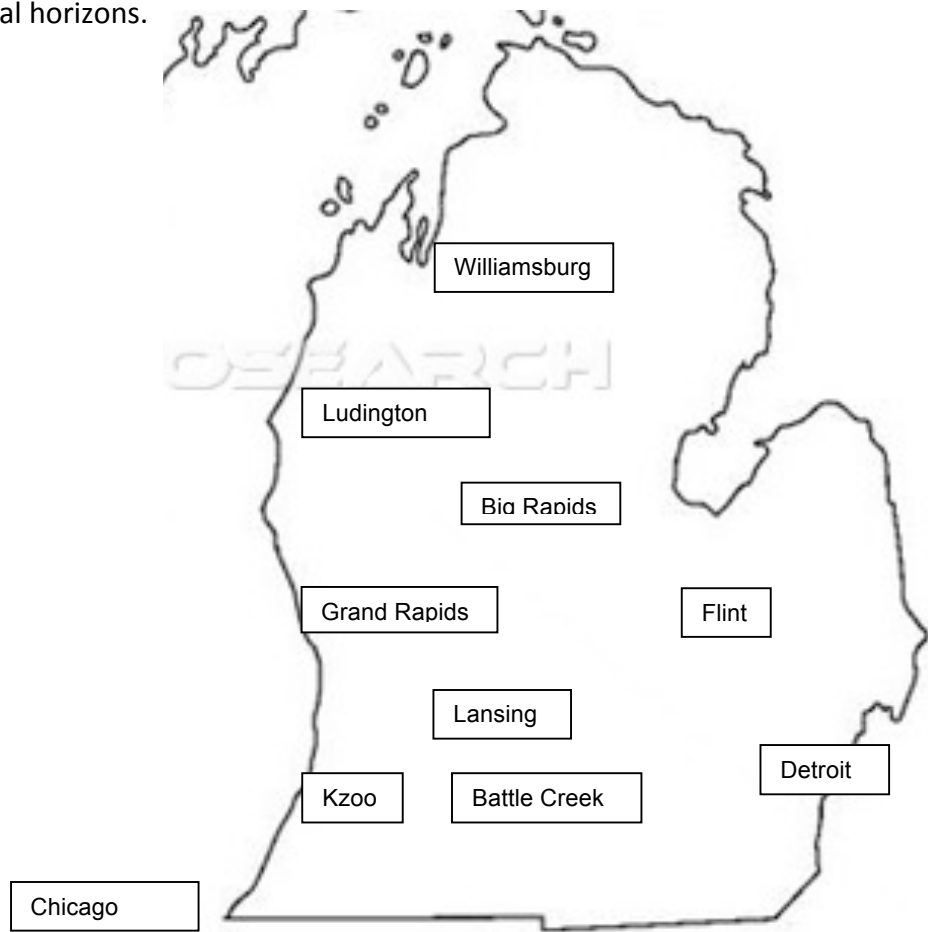
Museum Description, “The Spirit of the Woods Museum is Northern Michigan’s hidden gem. The museum has been built over several decades with the goal of sharing our love and respect for wildlife and the outdoors with our visitors. Follow the tracks on the floor to see what animal they were made by. In addition to wildlife displays, the museum features an extremely large collection of Native American Artifacts – most of which come from the Great Lakes Region.”

Tuskegee Airmen National Museum, Detroit, MI

This tour to Tuskegee is a great opportunity for participants to learn and/or refresh their knowledge about the history of America’s first Black military airmen.

Museum Description, “The National Museum of the Tuskegee Airmen represents the culmination of the efforts of many individuals. It provides a place not only to record the contributions of gallant Black Americans to the defense of our nation during a period of our history when they were not thought of as the equal of other citizens, but a place where all of the youth of America may come to acquire inspiration, counseling and assistance in achieving excellence in their own educational and career pursuits.”

The map below is to illustrate the destinations of museums. Some families have not had the opportunity to explore learning experiences outside of their home town and the Big Rapids community. This tour of museum provides an avenue for SWC families to expand their geographical horizons.



b. The goals and intended outcome(s) of the event.

The goal of the Tour of Museums project is to conduct an activity in an effort to expose SWC families to a unique learning opportunity. The objectives and outcomes are listed below.

<p>Goals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To enhance overall participation in SWC 2. To achieve participant satisfaction in our extended program 	<p>Measure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of families at each event and overall 2. Completion of a brief survey by participants of each tour and at the end of the project
<p>Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To engage up to 100 families in the SWC program 2. To help parents and children better utilize resources for family learning experiences 3. To promote a feeling of belonging and inclusiveness for SWC 	<p>Measure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of attendance at each event 2. The surveys completed after each event 3. The surveys completed after each event and the overall assessment

A short assessment will be completed by participants to determine the value and each tour. In addition, an overall evaluation will be presented to participants to determine if such activity should be revised or continued. The program coordinator will also include the assessment of the tours in the annual report to the Dean and the SWC Advisory Committee. We hope to obtain information from this underserved group how a themed, extended program like the Museum Tours services are benefitting them in their pursuit at Ferris.

c. A statement on how the event relates to the curriculum or a specific discipline, if appropriate.

Not applicable.

d. A timeline.

The museum tour would begin Spring 2011 semester and conclude Fall 2011. Please review the chart below that illustrates a draft tour schedule. The dates may vary and the order of the museum tours may change depending upon the availability of university transportation and flexible admission rates.

Tour of Museum Tentative Schedule			
Date	Museum	Location	
April 25	Card Wildlife Center	FSU Big Rapids	
May 14	G.R. Public Museum	Grand Rapids	Depends Upon Exhibit
June 17	Flint Children's Museum	Flint	
July 9	Spirit of the Woods	Williamsburg	
July 22	Sandcastles Children's Museum	Ludington	
August 5 or 6	Tuskegee Airmen or Henry Ford Museum	Detroit	
August 19 or 20	Air Zoo	Portage	
Sept. 17	Muskegon Cty Museum of African American History	Muskegon	
Oct. 22	Kingman	Battle Creek	
Dec. 2/3 or 3/4	Planetarium and Science/Industry	Chicago, IL	Overnight Visit

e. Description of the target audience, including the estimated number of participants.

The Students with Children program will target the students who are currently registered at Ferris in Spring 2011. However, SWC's who arrive in Summer 2011 or Fall 2011, will be eligible to participate. Our program is growing each semester and we anticipate full participation at each tour. We also realize that not every student will attend all tours due to scheduling conflicts; but the program networks with over 500 students. The overall goal is to engage 100 families in this project.

f. The expected impact that the event will have on Ferris.

Students with children are currently informing the SWC office about their appreciation for the support we provide. The events and resources currently available are being well attended and participants are also networking with community resources. In order for participants to be eligible for the final museum tour to Chicago, they must have attended at least two (2) prior museum tours.

Our program believes a powerful impact may occur because of SWC activities like the one prepared here to include:

- Decrease the stress level of parents who financially can't participate in family-fun-educational-type activities
- Build stronger ties to the community and to each other
- Increase positive memories for children about museums so they can learn about a variety of "careers" to pursue as adults

g. A specific plan to assess the impact of the event on the University.

The SWC Program requires all parents to complete an assessment after the conclusion of each event. A summary survey will be conducted in December 2011. On the assessment, participants are asked if the event was informative or entertaining, if they interacted with someone new, would they recommend the activity to a friend, if they value the tour as a positive parenting experience, and space for general comments. We would also like to include a video story of the parents and children remarks of the tours. Portions of the video clip could be added to the SWC website; that should be launched in Spring 2011. The video may even become a tool for recruiting future Ferris students with children.

VI. Budget

a. Anticipated expenses (itemize and briefly explain).

The anticipated expenses for the project include staff wages/benefits for an adult part time, student wage, and supply/expense for activities for the academic year 2010-2011. These wages and expenses are provided by the University College Dean's Office and are not additional charges for this project.

The grant amount requested will be applied directly to admission fees, transportation, and meals for SWC participants. Please note the estimated budget summarizes adult and children admission fees. Event costs will vary depending upon the number of children and adults participants. These expenses were calculated in two ways; 1) If each event had 28 participants (low), and 2) If each event had 47 participants (High) Actual total costs will fall probably somewhere in between.

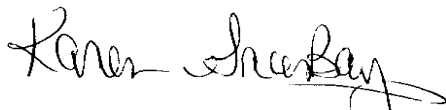
b. Funds anticipated from other sources (please list).

The Dean of University College will provide additional funding for expenses that exceed the requested grant amount. (See attached Letter of Support)

c. Total amount requested from Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant.

The amount requested is \$5000.00. The UC Dean will pay the balance of costs above the requested amount.

Applicants' Signatures:



Submission Date: Friday, April 1, 2011

Submit applications to Patty Terryn, Diversity and Inclusion Office, CSS 312. Review of applications will begin upon receipt and continue contingent on available funds.