

The Slay Fund for Social Justice at Drake University

Report on Grants Awarded, Academic Year 2015/16

Submitted by Professor Renee Ann Cramer, August 2016

The Slay Fund made grants to projects in four broad categories: *student research and internships*, *pedagogy for social justice*, *campus-wide events and speakers*, and *long-term programs with community partners*. These funding categories coincide with the three strategic priorities of the Slay Fund, which will even more explicitly guide funding decision-making, moving forward. The strategic priorities allocate funding for: speakers and events related to social justice; capacity-building and institutional support programming; student-proposed and student-focused initiatives.

Student Research and Internships Funded, 15/16

The Slay Fund provided a grant to the Drake student group: **Next Course - Food Recovery Network**, to send eight students to the National Food Recovery Dialogue in Washington, DC in spring 2016. Next Course works with campus food vendors to reduce waste, and make sure that left over food gets in the hands of those that need it, through a partnership with the Catholic Worker House.

Drake sent a team of faculty, staff, and students to NCORE: National Congress on Race and Ethnicity, where they developed tools to create a more welcoming and diverse environment on campus. The Slay Fund allocated funds to support one-third of the team, by purchasing plane tickets, registration, hotel, and food for three student leaders of **La Fuerza Latina**.

Drake junior Jackie Heymann attended two social justice conferences with the support of the Slay Fund for Social Justice. She was awarded funding to attend both the Interfaith Leadership Institute (Atlanta, GA) and the White Privilege Conference (Philadelphia, PA). Jackie has been an integral part of leadership on social justice issues within Drake's student body, and was honored, in the spring, by being named a co-winner of the A. E. Sheslow Prize for Distinguished Leadership, in recognition of the leadership work she does for the College of Arts & Sciences.

Four Law, Politics, and Society students travelled with Professor Renee Cramer to San Francisco in late December 2015, to attend the first ever LiveLaw event to be produced by incarcerated individuals (**LiveLaw San Quentin**). They returned to campus and produced a two hour long event (attended by more than 75 students, faculty, and staff) to explain the rehabilitation programs they witnessed at San Quentin, the role of such programs in reducing recidivism, and the ways that students can be productively involved with incarcerated populations in Iowa.

Pedagogy for Social Justice, 15/16

The Slay Fund offers crucial support for the **Drake Social Justice Living and Learning Community** (LLC), a powerful residential program for students interested in learning about, and actively living, social justice. In 2015/16, the Fund supported the LLC by providing training and a stipend for two student interns (Jackie Heymann and Kara Strickler), and a stipend for Professor Darcie Vandegriff.

The **Drake Community Press**, advised by Professor Carol Spaulding Kruse, used Slay Funds to pay student interns associated with the project. The **Community Press** produces gorgeous full-color, illustrated books on issues of interest and concern to Iowans; in partnership with local communities, the press engages over 100 faculty, staff, and student collaborators in a two-year curriculum related to social justice.

Tony Tyler, Drake's Director of **Student Engagement, Equity & Inclusion**, was awarded a grant to develop "**Flight**" a pre-welcome weekend program for incoming students of color, to facilitate their success through intensive introductions to all the University has to offer. Students in Flight will also explore the diversity of student experiences, with an emphasis on racial identity.

Campus-Wide Events and Speakers Funded, 15/16

The **Coalition of Black Students** brought **Tracy Martin** (father of Trayvon Martin) to campus to speak in a packed-house public lecture, and to be honored as part of the annual Black and Brown Dinner hosted by CBS. The Slay Fund for Social Justice contributed to speaker fees and travel expenses for Mr. Martin.

Student leader **Jacques Goavec** and the **Coalition of Black Students** were awarded funds to cater a **Welcome Weekend BBQ** for students of color and allies, in late summer 2015.

Drake's **Residence Hall Association's** president, student Claire Davison accessed Slay Funds to help pay honoraria and travel expenses to bring nationally recognized transgender speaker **Ryan Sallans** to campus. Ryan's presentation on gender identity and sexual orientation helped students and staff as they devised a transgender and gender inclusive policy statement, which has been adopted in several ways by Drake's administration.

Programs with Community Partners 15/16

The Slay Fund allocated a grant to the on-going work of **#Unitelowa**, a collaboration of faculty, students, and the Des Moines Register, facilitated on campus by **Professor Carol Spaulding-Kruse**, and student intern **Virginia Hill**. Throughout the school year, #Unitelowa hosted a series of community conversations about issues crucial to social justice in Des Moines (policing, education, economic development, race relations), in a variety of community settings. The funding from the Slay Fund went towards the honorarium required to bring a culminating speaker, **Jose Antonio Vargas**, journalist and founder of Define America, to campus in May.

The Slay Fund provided financial support of **AmeriCorps Summer Programming** facilitated by **Renee Sedlacek**, Director of Drake University's Office of **Community Engagement and Service Learning**.

Drake Law Professor Brent Pattison was awarded a grant to support an innovative project, **#KnowJustice**. With this project, students and faculty from the **Middleton Center for Children's Rights at Drake Law** partnered with **ArtForce Iowa** to educate local children about their rights under the law, and create art to express their understanding of the power of law in their lives (and their lives in the law). Allocated funding went to purchase art supplies, snacks for after-school

programming, and program-related costs like printing, photocopying, telephone expenses, and faculty time.

Totals Allocated by Category

- 19% of Slay funds allocated to student research and travel
- 18% of Slay funds allocated for pedagogy for Social Justice
- 14% of Slay funds allocated for campus-wide events
- 49% of Slay funds allocated with community partners