

## **The Slay Fund for Social Justice at Drake University**

Report on Grants Awarded and Completed, Academic Year 2019/20

Submitted by Professor Renée Ann Cramer, November 2020

In academic year 2019/2020, the Slay Fund for Social Justice 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 allocate funding for: speakers and events related to social justice; capacity building and institutional support programming; student-proposed and student-focused initiatives. These categories and priorities overlap to a great extent, but we have identified primary activities in the following ways:

### **Student Activism, Research, and Internships**

Student **Samantha Bayne** (Politics/International Relations, and Law, Politics, and Society) received supplementary travel funding for her trip to Washington, DC to receive an award from “All In Campus Challenge” for the work she’s done to make Drake University a place where students are politically engaged and active, and to increase voter participation in our community and region.

### **Associate Provost Melissa Sturm-Smith and Dean of Students Jerry Parker**

collaborated on a grant proposal to hire a team of students to create a digital wellness hub that embodies a social justice approach to mental health, in support of our students. We appreciate that this wellness hub comes from a Task Force recommendation and is grounded in best practices for thinking about the provision of mental health care and services – and takes a holistic approach for our community.

**Angelica Reyes**, and other student members of La Fuerza Latina (LFL) were awarded a grant to support La Fuerza Latina’s travel to the United States Hispanic Leadership Conference in Chicago in February 2020.

### **Pedagogy for Social Justice**

**Crew Scholars** faculty director **Kevin Lam** and staff member **Josh Wallace** were awarded a grant to distribute to faculty mentors in reimbursement of their community building meals and coffees with their mentees.

**Erin Lain** (Associate Provost of Campus Equity and Inclusion) received a Slay Fund grant in order to purchase 100 copies of the book *Nonbinary: Memoirs of Gender and Identity*, and to provide them to faculty and staff who commit to taking part reading groups organized by her office.

Law Professor **Brent Pattison** continued the Drake Legal Clinic’s collaboration with **#ArtForceIowa** to develop educational programming for middle school students in Des Moines. The Slay Fund provided funding for supplies and hospitality.

**Jennifer Harvey** (Professor of Religion, and Crew Scholars Faculty Advisor) has been awarded a grant for two key anti-racist programs on campus that will run through fall 2021. These are: the introduction of the Haven digital media platform to campus, and the facilitation of a Doing Our Own Work workshop, an essential interventions into structural, interpersonal, and institutionalized racism. Combined, these two programs represent comprehensive campus-wide training and preparation for anti-racist work.

The Fund continued support of **Renee Sedlacek Lee**, and the **Office of Community Engaged Learning**, who have a grant to cover 3 years in the development and maintenance of a **Faculty Fellow in Engaged Learning**. The funding goes towards a stipend, travel, and research support for the faculty fellow. Funding enables the development of our community's capacity for engaged learning, maximize student engagement in community-based programs, and expand our presence as a leader in the field of community engagement.

### **Events and Speakers**

**Drake College Republicans** sought and received funding to bring conservative speaker Guy Benson to campus in the fall of 2019. This grant was made to facilitate student-led conversations across ideological divides, and to help to build communities of inquiry around identity and identity politics.

**InterVarsity Christian Fellowship** and **Drake Rainbow Union** planned an event together to bring Sam Brinton to campus to discuss The Trevor Project, and educate our community about the harms of Conversion Therapy for LGBTQ people. The Slay Fund supported this with a grant.

The Slay Fund made three grants in service of **FirstGen student and historically black sorority events** – hiring a DJ, and providing hospitality for three separate events dedicated to these student populations.

### **Programs with Community Partners**

The Slay Fund partnered with the Provost's Office and brought 20 Latinx students faculty, and staff to an event sponsored by Chrysalis Foundation and featuring Delores Heurte.

The Slay Fund supports **Professor Renee Cramer** with a stipend each year, for her work to direct the fund.

14% of Slay funds awarded to student research and travel	\$ 5,278.
55% of Slay funds awarded for pedagogy for social justice	\$ 20,400.
14% of Slay funds awarded for campus-wide events	\$ 5,305.
17% of Slay funds awarded to community partners/support	\$ 6,000.
Total funds awarded for academic year 2019-2020	\$36,983.

