

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

Report on Grants Awarded and Completed, Academic Year 2021/2022

Submitted by Professor Renée Ann Cramer, September 2022

In academic year 2021/2022 the Slay Fund for Social Justice made grants to projects in three broad categories: pedagogy for social justice, including student research, internships, and travel; 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:

### **Pedagogy for Social Justice, Including Student Travel and Internships**

**Professor Tim Knepper** (Philosophy and Religion) accessed Slay Funding during the summer of 2022, to pay stipends to Drake students involved in the Inter-Faith Youth Camp (\$5652).

The Slay Fund awarded **Professor Deb DeLaet** (Political Science and International Relations) \$2800 to fund student travel to the United Nations Global Leadership Summit.

**Professor Elizabeth Talbert** (Study of Culture and Society), in collaboration with the Office of Community Engaged Learning, brought innovative social justice pedagogy to her class, "The Art of the Interview." Students in that class had the opportunity to learn valuable social science research methodology, while also collecting important data to inform policymaking and community response to the pressing social issue of (lack of) affordable housing. A Slay Fund grant of \$2400 enabled the purchase of 80 gift cards to compensate interview participants for their time and expertise.

**Professor Shelley Fairbairn** (School of Education) hired four Black students as consultants and conversation partners to assess the tools she developed to help faculty who are engaging in racially charged topics in classroom conversations (\$600).

A \$6750 grant from the Slay Fund enabled the **Drake Community Press** to hire 5 student interns to work with the press to report on the ways that climate change affects rural communities in Iowa.

**Professor Dian Nostikasari** (Environmental Science and Sustainability) used a grant from the Slay Fund to support the innovative pedagogy and community service brought to bear in a Digital Mapping project for the Oakridge neighborhood in Des Moines. The grant (\$9500) was authorized to pay for honoraria for speakers at a university-hosted symposium, student wages for the mapping project, local transportation for mapping, and hospitality for participants. Professor Nostikasari used the Slay funding as part of seed money in applying for a grant from Iowa Humanities.

**Professor Talbert** (Study of Society and Culture) received (\$3400) funding to extend the reach of the Des Moines Housing Study she undertook with undergraduates in academic year 2020/21, by taking those students to present on their work at the Midwestern Sociological Society annual meetings. Involving undergraduates in the professional and disciplinary study of homelessness, and offering them the opportunity to present on the work while gaining socialization into their field – is valuable for them, and for the extension of social justice pedagogy. Professor Talbert received further funding (5000) to hire student interns over the summer months of 2021, to conduct Emergency Rapid Response and Disaster Preparedness interviews with people experiencing homelessness in Des Moines. Working in close partnership with Anawim Housing, Professor Talbert and her students developed deep understanding of the disaster preparedness needs of the unhoused in the city, and a set of recommendations for housing-related action.

**Professor Leanne Purdum** (Law, Politics, and Society) paid social justice activists and nonprofit leaders nominal honoraria when they spoke to her “Legal Advocacy” class about the ways that they make social change and work for justice (\$500).

### **Events and Speakers**

The Slay Fund for Social Justice purchased 2 tables for students, faculty, and staff to attend the Chrysalis Foundation “Stolen Sisters” luncheon, featuring conversation with indigenous women activists (\$500).

Staff from Drake University’s offices of Advancement and Admissions collaborated on a pathbreaking grant proposal to the Slay Fund. The grant funding (\$7500) enabled these offices to contract with an alumna of color, who runs an equity and inclusion consulting and training firm (Im\*Pact Enterprises). Understanding that implicit bias and hidden assumptions negatively impact the ways that admissions counselors and development team members might serve in their roles, Im\*Pact Enterprises principal Kelly Redmond and her staff ran several months of intensive development for thirty members of their teams and staff/administrators from across the university.

In AY 2021/2022, the Slay Fund awarded \$44,602 in grants for social justice on Drake University’s campus.

82% of funding -- \$36,602 – awarded for pedagogy, student internships, research, and travel  
18% of funding -- \$8,000 – awarded for events and speakers

In addition, the Slay Fund supports **Professor Renee Cramer** with a stipend each year, for her work to direct the fund (\$6,100 – stipend + benefits).