

SIUE
School of Education
Diversity Education Project
Report of Activities for the 2007-2008 Academic Year

Introduction

The SIUE Diversity Education Project was originally initiated as a project titled: “Partners for Educational Leadership: Fostering Access and Diversity.” Funded by the Higher Education Cooperation Act, SIUE was given \$10,000 for the 2004-2005 academic year in order to plan a human relations (diversity) training program for teacher education faculty, in collaboration with the Chicago branch of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) and Chicago State University (CSU). Unfortunately NCCJ did not receive funding for the implementation year (2005-2006). Nevertheless, the SIUE planning group decided to continue its work on diversity-related professional development for teacher education faculty at SIUE. In Fall 2007 the planning group changed the name of the project to the Diversity Education Project (DEP). This report describes 2007-2008 activities. (Reports are available describing the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 activities).

Meetings

The Diversity Project planning committee met six times during the 2007-2008 academic year – three times in the fall and three times in the spring. (See Appendix for minutes of these meetings). Meetings for the academic year focused on several key issues, as follows:

- Creating a DEP Mission Statement
- Planning/updates on the SOE Inquiry Conference.
- Developing a DEP logo and website
- Linking the DEP to the new Piasa Bluffs Writing Project
- Organizing and carrying out teacher educator events

Mission Statement

The DEP developed a Mission Statement, as follows:

DIVERSITY EDUCATION PROJECT
School of Education, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

MISSION STATEMENT

The Diversity Education Project (DEP) evolved from an emerging commitment on the part of SIUE’s School of Education to bringing diversity education to the forefront. The goal of the Project is to support access and success for diverse P-20 learners by providing and promoting diversity education for teacher educators. In order to carry out its goal, the DEP organizes and coordinates diversity education activities. It also creates and develops linkages with other groups

and institutions in order to foster the growth of diversity understandings among educators and learners.

Inquiry Conference

The Inquiry Conference was held on April 18, 2008. The DEP had worked to develop the EUE application that led to funding for the conference. The conference was planned by Barbara O'Donnell, Jenny Bolander, and Allison Fahsl, all members of the DEP Planning Committee. Updates on the conference planning occurred at each DEP meeting, and Laurie Puchner, DEP facilitator, recruited presenters for some of the breakout sessions on diversity-related topics such as linguistic diversity (Seran Aktuna and Joel Hardman), race (Flo Maatita), and gender (Linda Markowitz). The final DEP meeting of the year, which was held on April 30, 2008, was devoted to reviewing feedback from the Inquiry Conference and planning for the 2009 Inquiry Conference (see April 30, 2008, meeting minutes, Appendix).

DEP Logo and Website

The new DEP logo can be seen on the new website. The website was developed by Melissa Thomeczek in collaboration with the planning committee. Ralph Cordova facilitated development of the logo. The url for the website is:

<http://wipwww.siue.edu/diversityeducation/>

Links to Piasa Bluffs Writing Project

The DEP formed a linkage to the Piasa Bluffs Writing Project (PBWP), as a resource for various diversity-related PBWP initiatives. On July 3, 2008, two DEP planning committee members (Laurie Puchner and Nicole Klein) conducted a session during the PBWP Summer Institute involving discussion of DEP diversity-related efforts and the Institute participants' perceptions of diversity education needs in the schools. It is expected that DEP may serve as a resource for PBWP activities in the future.

Workshops

DEP organized and held two diversity workshops during the academic year. The first was titled "Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (as Resource) in the Classroom." It was held on February 13, 2007, from 12-1:30pm. Presenters were Seran Aktuna (English), Ralph Cordova (C & I), Joel Hardman (English), Howard Rambsy (English), and Zsuzsanna Szabo (Educational Leadership). Several SOE faculty members and some students attended the workshop. The second workshop was a modified version of the first, but with a focus on gender. It was held as part of Women's History Month events on Wednesday, March 19, from 11am-12:15pm. Also, as mentioned above, DEP conducted a session during the Piasa Bluffs Writing Project Summer Institute. The session took place on July 2, 2008.

Planning Committee Participation

Below are names of individuals who attended DEP meetings during the academic year.
Laurie Puchner facilitated the planning committee and the meetings.

Jenny Bolander

Susan Breck

Tammy Burt

Ralph Cordova

David Deweese

Gretchen Fricke

Nicole Klein

Stephanie McAndrews

Barbara O'Donnell

Caroline Pryor

Laurie Puchner

Bill Searcy

Zsuzsanna Szabo

Ann Taylor

Peter Theodore

Melissa Thomeczek

APPENDIX: Minutes of 2007-2008 Academic Year Meetings

Diversity Education Project Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Minutes Planning Group Meeting August 28, 2007, 10am

Participants: Jenny Bolander, Susan Breck, Ralph Cordova, David DeWeese, Stephanie McAndrews, Barbara O'Donnell, Caroline Pryor, Laurie Puchner, Bill Searcy, Zsuzsanna Szabo, Ann Taylor, Peter Theodore, Melissa Thomeczek

1. Announcements:

Inquiry Conference planning is underway: Barbara O'Donnell gave an overview of the conference planning to this point. The conference date is April 18, 2008, and she is working on rooms. The conference planning committee comprises Jenny Bolander, Barbara O'Donnell, and Allison Fahsl. Ann Taylor and Laurie Puchner are additional consultants. The planning committee will be meeting later this week.

2. Minutes from April 23: These were approved.

3. Standing Committee: Participants discussed progress in development of a SOE standing committee that would do such things as monitor diversity-related activities, work on faculty and student retention issues, work on results of previous diversity-related task forces, and collect and analyze data related to diversity. This would be a faculty standing committee, and Bill Searcy would like to help get the committee developed, via a small working group. Susan Breck expressed interest in being a part of the working group. Bill said he would also talk to Michael Afolayan and to some non-teacher education faculty about being a part of the working group. The working group will develop some draft operating papers, and then submit them for discussion at a faculty meeting.

4. Teacher education professional development event planning: This discussion began with a look at some bullet points from the April meeting. Ann Taylor gave an overview of the work of ALSO, and Susan Breck gave an overview of the Golden Apple initiative. With Golden Apple, there is a possibility that SIUE could do one of the required summer institutes on culturally responsive teaching. Those overviews were followed by a very fruitful discussion of teacher education professional development ideas for this year. Among the ideas presented were the following:

- developing modules on race and other issues similar to the modules developed by ALSO;
 - developing sessions that revolve around discussion of an interesting article;
 - scheduling sessions in classes, but then inviting other teacher education faculty to attend;
 - doing one or two C&I Brown Bag sessions this year
 - organizing peer review around the teaching of specific diversity topics for interested faculty;
 - advertising our sessions/services on the SOE website;
 - applying for SOE faculty development money
 - doing a ½ day or one day session on some aspect of diversity with an outside consultant
- Projects that we decided to go forward with are the following:
- A C&I Brown Bag event on linguistic diversity. Ralph Cordova and Zsuzsanna Szabo will organize this. Laurie will give them the names of some CAS faculty who might be interesting in working with them on it.
 - Development of a session/module on race, centered around a particular journal article. Ann Taylor will work on this, and Laurie will send her the names of some potential

additional faculty members (particularly from CAS) who will work with her on it. Melissa Thomeczek would like the session to be done in her class.

- Development of a session/module on sexuality issues in early childhood education. This will also be centered around a specific article. Peter Theodore and Melissa Thomeczek will work on this. They will also contact Elizabeth Sherwood.
5. Next meeting will take place end of October.

Minutes submitted by Laurie Puchner, August 28, 2007

Diversity Education Project
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Minutes
Planning Group Meeting
October 30, 2007, 10am

Participants: Jenny Bolander, Susan Breck, Ralph Cordova, David DeWeese, Nicole Klein, Barbara O'Donnell, Laurie Puchner, Bill Searcy, Zsuzsanna Szabo, Ann Taylor, Melissa Thomeczek

1. Announcements:
 - Inquiry Conference planning is underway. Barbara O'Donnell and Jenny Bolander gave an update on progress.
 - Bill Searcy announced that the SOE has created an ad hoc committee to examine the results of past diversity-related task forces, including the recommendation of forming a standing committee.
 - Laurie Puchner announced that during a Fall 2008 sabbatical that she has applied for, she will be designing a study of teacher education students' understanding of racial issues as they move through their academic programs.
 - Ann Taylor gave an update on Addressing Learning through Sexual Orientation (ALSO) activities for the year.
2. Minutes from August 28: two amendments were suggested, and the minutes were approved as amended.
3. Ralph Cordova gave an update on the linguistic diversity brown bag session that he and Zsuzsanna Szabo have been working on with Seran Aktuna, Joel Hardman, and Howard Rambsy. The date for the event is February 13, 2007, 12-1:30pm. They would like to invite the entire SOE students and faculty. It was suggested that they contact Caroline Pryor so that it can be put on the agenda of the C&I Brown Bag Series. They would also like to do the event again in March as a campus-wide event. Zsuzsanna is taking care of reserving the room.
4. The second event planned at our previous meeting was a session on race, centered around an article. Susan Breck offered to handle that event, which is supposed to occur in Melissa Thomeczek's class. Susan will work with a CAS faculty member on this.

5. The third event previously outlined was a session on sexuality in early childhood education. Melissa Thomeczek reported that she, Peter Theodore, and Elizabeth Sherwood plan to do this event in the spring. Bill Searcy would like to participate as well. March was suggested as a good month for this.
6. Nicole Klein and Susan Breck described a sexuality session that they will be piloting in the spring in Susan's middle school class. It was suggested that they update the group on their progress with this at later meetings, and that they might be able to include the session as part of the April Inquiry Conference.
7. Formalization of the Diversity Education Project – several ideas were suggested toward this end, including:
 - Creation of a master calendar of events
 - Development of a website – Bill Searcy is currently working on website issues at the SOE level, and will work on getting permission for us to develop a site that links to the SOE website.
 - The Project could be a subcommittee of the future Standing Committee.
 - Ralph Cordova suggested that the Project could connect with the SIUE National Writing Project website that is now in progress. This was seen as a good way to connect the Diversity Education Project to formal programs. Ralph will explain the suggestion to the NWP web person, and Laurie Puchner will send information.
 - It was further suggested that the NWP could be used as an initial link that would lead to creation of a bigger, more formal, Diversity Education Project. The Project committee decided to put discussion of this issue on the agenda of our next meeting.
8. Next meeting will be held on November 27, 2007, 9:30-10:45am.

Minutes submitted by Laurie Puchner, October 31, 2007

**Diversity Education Project
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Minutes
Planning Group Meeting
November 27, 2007, 9:30am**

Participants: Ralph Cordova, Laurie Puchner, Zsuzsanna Szabo, Ann Taylor, Melissa Thomeczek

1. Minutes from October 30: approved
2. Updates on this year's events:

- Szabo gave an update on the linguistic diversity session. A Brown Bag, in conjunction with the C&I Brown Bag Series, will be held on Feb. 13, 2008. Then on March 19th a slightly modified version of the event will be held in Puchner's educational psychology class, on March 19, 2008. The March event will also be a part of Women's History Month activities.
 - Puchner reported that according to Peter Theodore the planned workshop on sexuality and early childhood education was in the planning stages.
 - Updates on events being planned by Susan Breck and Nicole Klein will be provided at a later date.
3. Formalization of the Diversity Education Project (DEP) via connections with the SIUE National Writing Project (NWP)- Cordova provided background and outlined possibilities for these connections, as follows:
- SIUE has been granted a NWP that will be called the Piasa Bluffs Writing Project (PBWP). The official start date of the PBWP is in February 2008. The heart of the NWP is an intensive summer workshop for teachers using a teachers training teachers model to cultivate leadership in the area of successful approaches to writing instruction. There will be a 2008 PBWP Invitational Summer Institute at SIUE.
 - Within the NWP there are a variety of networks, including an Urban Sites Network, an English Language Learner Network and a Rural Sites Network. PBWP plans to apply to be an affiliate of all three of these, which would enable PBWP to apply for mini-grants to further work related to the network.
 - When PBWP becomes a member of the Urban Sites Network and the English Language Learner Network, the DEP could be a resource for their work. For example, PBWP might apply for a grant this year to fund a strand on ELL for interested teachers at the 2008 summer institute. The DEP could help with that work, which would be educational for the p-12 teachers involved as well as the SIUE teacher educators involved. Also, PWBP plans to apply for a grant through the Urban Sites Network to help fund part of the 2009 Inquiry Conference, with a specific focus on strengthening the diversity aspect of the conference. Again, the DEP could be a resource for that project as well.
 - Other possible steps that could be taken by the DEP are: participation of one member in NWP Steering Committee meetings; inclusion of non-SIUE groups, such as schools, in the DEP.
4. Steps to be taken now by the DEP:
- Creation of a DEP website. Thomeczek and Puchner will work on that. Once that is done, they will send the URL to Cordova to link with the PBWP. (Right now PBWP has created a DEP website linked to the PBWP, but the DEP needs to create its own, using SOE guidelines). They will also send the URL to the SOE so it gets linked to the SOE website.
 - If Cordova is permitted to apply for NWP mini-grants in January 2008 (he is seeking permission to do this even though the PBWP will not be official until February 2008), then DEP will act as a resource for those applications.
 - It is possible that a DEP member would go to the 2008 Urban Sites Network conference in Denver in April.

5. Cordova and Breck will be applying for an EUE grant to enhance the undergraduate elementary education program lesson study project, which will include a diversity piece. DEP should be involved in that as well.
6. Next meeting will occur in January 2008. Puchner will e-mail committee to decide on a date.

Minutes submitted by Laurie Puchner, November 27, 2007

**Diversity Education Project
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Minutes
Planning Group Meeting
January 30, 2008, 10:30am**

Participants Jenny Bolander, Susan Breck, Tammy Burt, Ralph Cordova, David DeWeese, Gretchen Fricke, Nicole Klein, Barbara O'Donnell, Laurie Puchner, Zsuzsanna Szabo

1. Announcements: Barbara provided an update regarding the Inquiry Conference. Nicole provided an update on the SOE Ad Hoc diversity committee's work.
2. Minutes from November 27, 2007: approved with one minor revision
3. Updates on this year's events:
 - Zsuzsanna reminded the group about the Linguistic diversity sessions
 - Laurie reported that Peter Theodore and Elizabeth Sherwood were still planning a session on sexuality and early childhood education. It was suggested that such a session might be good for the Inquiry Conference.
4. Laurie circulated a draft Mission Statement for DEP. Revisions were made – see attached.
5. A logo is needed for the website. Ralph said he would ask his partner to help with this. We had a brief discussion of the basic design.
6. Ralph updated the group on the Piasa Bluffs Writing Project. This new SIUE National Writing Project branch will officially be in operation beginning in February. The goal of the PBWP is to bring a Highly Qualified Teacher of Writing within reach of all students in the area. There will be an Invitational Summer Institute at SIUE this summer. Ralph will send invitational materials to the DEP planning committee so that we can distribute them to teachers who might be interested.
7. Our next meeting will be a Wednesday in February at 10am. Laurie will provide the exact date later.

**Diversity Education Project
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville**

**Minutes
Planning Group Meeting
April 9, 2008, 10:00am**

Participants: Susan Breck, Barbara O'Donnell, Laurie Puchner, Zsuzsanna Szabo, Peter Theodore, Melissa Thomeczek

1. Announcements:
 - a. Barbara provided an update regarding the Inquiry Conference. The group decided that a DEP meeting should be held after the April 18, 2008, conference in order to make some decisions for next year's conference. The date will be April 30, 2008, 10am. In announcing the meeting Laurie will make it clear that only those interested in discussing the conference should attend.
 - b. Peter provided an update on the early childhood & sexuality session that he and Elizabeth Sherwood have been planning. It was decided that further discussion of the appropriate venue for that session should occur, and that the session would be held in Fall 2008.
2. Minutes from January 30, 2008: approved
3. Logo and other website issues: Thanks to Melissa, DEP has a website, and thanks to Ralph, DEP has a logo (developed by Ralph's partner). Laurie circulated the logo. She will e-mail it to Melissa for the website. Melissa updated the group on other aspects of the website development, and showed us what it looks like. Laurie will e-mail other documents to Melissa. Barbara will e-mail the Inquiry Conference program to Melissa once the program is done so that the website can link to the program.
4. Laurie updated the group on recent developments with the Piasa Bluffs Writing Project, based on a recent meeting she had with Ralph. Ralph would like DEP to do a session at the 2008 Piasa Bluffs Writing Project Summer Literacy Institute. The group brainstormed about such a session, and proposed that it be a give-and-take session on all aspects of diversity. The focus of the session should be: How do the institute participants (teachers) believe that we (teacher educators) should prepare teachers to deal with diversity? What types of diversity education are needed? From their perspective (as teachers and as potential SIUE cooperating teachers) what do SIUE student teachers need to know? DEP representatives will make it clear that we are open to talking about multiple types of diversity, including race, sexual orientation, language, and other areas. A focus group format might be appropriate. DEP reps can/should bring resources to share with the institute participants, such as Rethinking Schools publications and/or teacher-aimed documents available through the Southern Poverty Law Center. Laurie will discuss this possibility with Ralph, and

schedule a time and determine who the actual DEP participants might be. Laurie also reported that PBWP will be applying for an Urban Sites Network grant, and would like DEP collaboration with that.

5. Laurie reported that Gretchen Fricke has suggested that there is a need for a support group for minority teacher education students at SIUE. The group discussed this issue. Two issues that were felt to be important were the need to begin by researching existing SIUE resources in this area, so that a teacher education group does not reinvent the wheel and that it utilizes what is already there to an appropriate extent. The group also stressed the need to empower/help students to create their own group, as opposed to making a group for them. The group also discussed the potential need for a faculty advisor for the group.

Minutes submitted by Laurie Puchner, April 9, 2008

Diversity Education Project
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Minutes
Planning Group Meeting Concerning the Inquiry Conference
April 30, 2008, 10:00-11:30am

Participants: Jenny Bolander, Tammy Burt, Susan Breck, Nicole Klein, Barbara O'Donnell, Laurie Puchner, Bill Searcy

During this meeting participants discussed the recent Inquiry Conference. The meeting focused on strengths and weaknesses of the conference as well as plans for next year. The following points were discussed and decisions made:

1. Posters: Students need to be taught how to write an abstract, and on some posters students had research questions were not answered or addressed on the poster.
2. Tammy will work with Dave Cluphf and Cynthia Schroeder to involve PETE students next year.
3. We need to book the Meridian ballroom and the entire rest of the MUC for next year's conference.
4. A decision was made to hold the conference on a Saturday. Two possible dates are April 18 and April 25, depending on MUC availability.
5. The conference will go from approximately 9am to 2pm. For lunch people will be on their own.
6. If possible, the conference day should coincide with Celebrating Abilities Day.
7. For the undergraduates, attendance at the conference will be a requirement as part of a course they are taking.
8. Nicole will evaluate the perceptions of the four community health students who attended this year to decide whether the conference is appropriate for that program.
9. A potential idea for next year or some other future year would be to have an International Buffet in the University Restaurant during the conference. (The Restaurant is normally closed on Saturdays).

10. Bill Searcy's Office of Diversity and Faculty Development, in collaboration with the Dean's Office, the DEP, and C&I, will coordinate the conference for 2009, with the help of subcommittees as listed on the Inquiry Conference Notes and Ideas. (This handout was distributed at the meeting by Jenny and Barbara).
11. As part of this coordination, Bill will ask the Assistant Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity for some monetary assistance for the 2009 conference.
12. A display of resources would be nice – perhaps coordinated with the Bookstore.
13. Participants brainstormed ideas for speakers/topics:
 - Will have 1 keynote address only, in Meridian Ballroom
 - Tammy Burt will do a session on Adaptive PE
 - A session on dealing with special education issues in the regular classroom would be good
 - Local superintendent could come and do a session on hiring, jobs, etc., for undergrads
 - A graduate student could do a session on their first year of teaching, for undergrads
 - The new multicultural psychology hire could perhaps do a session
 - One of the behavior modification clinic psychology faculty members could do a session
 - Adam Garrett, alumnus who works at YMCA with children with disabilities could do a session
 - A session on socio-economic status or poverty would be good
 - Paul Burden might do a session on religious diversity
 - Nicole and Susan should do their session again
 - Need a sexual orientation session again, perhaps with a new focus
 - Need a race session again– look at evaluations of Flo Maatita
 - A diversity-focused video followed by discussion session could be done
 - Need a gender session again. Look at Linda Markowitz evaluations
 - Perhaps a session on “dialects” instead of “language diversity.”

Minutes submitted by Laurie Puchner, April 30, 2008