

## **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 19<sup>th</sup> 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