Grand Rapids Community College Foundation
Instructional Improvement and Professional Development (IIPD) Grant
Report Form

IIPD guidelines require that any individual who receives an IIPD grant must submit a report on their activities within 60 days of completion of the activities. This report must be received by the GRCC Grants and Resource Development Officer in order to be considered eligible for an IIPD grant in a subsequent year. Submit your report to the Grants and Resource Development Officer, mezzanine level, College Park Plaza Building.

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Date of IIPD Award (insert year award was received):

October 2008  March, 200-

Purpose of Grant:

My grant was to attend the annual conference for Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages.

Please respond to the following questions related to the activity for which you received grant funding and attach your report to this form.

1. Describe the new avenues of instruction, including changes in curriculum, teaching strategies or other changes that are resulting from your grant-funded activity.

2. How will the grant-funded activity result in an impact on student learning and enhancements to student success?

3. What steps are you taking to assess the impact of this activity on student learning?

4. How are you engaging others in the learning process and disseminating activity results with the wider campus community? NOTE: If shared learning activities have not yet taken place, an addendum to this report must be filed with the Grants Office describing shared learning activities prior to applying for another IIPD grant, as required by IIPD Guidelines.

5. Describe how the grant-funded activity is supporting the objectives of your department and your existing job responsibilities.

6. How has this grant helped in fostering your professional development goals?

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Attending the national TESOL convention has opened many new avenues of instruction for me. I went to a variety of sessions that offered some great teaching ideas for the classroom. For example, one session discussed ways to bring more technology into the classroom, and another gave great ideas for using music to practice grammar. In terms of curriculum, I attended several sessions relating to teaching film and culture in the classroom, and through these sessions I learned many things that will be helpful in the development of a seminar course that I have proposed to the college. I have already incorporated a few of the ideas into the Mini-CARP proposal, and will use even more of what I learned if the course is approved. I also made some great contacts that offered to share information should the course go through. Finally, I made contact with several publishers and am in the process of reviewing new textbooks that they sent me for future adoption.

Through my attendance at the TESOL conference, I hope to impact student learning in many ways. This is the largest event for teachers in my field, and a great way to get new ideas for the classroom. For example, one session that I attended discussed oral and written standards that ESL students need to meet in order to be successful in other classes. Another discussed ways to get the best behavior from students and reduce classroom disruptions. Others discussed various techniques to teach different concepts, and activities to help students master these concepts. Through implementation of these new ideas, I hope to enhance my teaching and help my students to be as successful as possible.

To assess the impact of this activity, I will review the level of success of any new activities, ideas, or materials that I use in the classroom to see if they have enhanced the curriculum. I will also discuss additions to the course with students for their input on whether or not they were helpful. Finally, I will review the success of the class as a whole to see if the added activities and techniques have had a positive impact on the classroom.

I have already had the opportunity to share many of the things that I learned with others at the college. I have shared many teaching ideas with other instructors, and have made handouts and

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materials available to them. I also gathered many great ESL activity websites from various sessions to pass on to ESL adjuncts. Finally, I attended a great session on diversity education, and was excited to share a very interesting web resource handout with our new diversity coordinator.

My attendance at the TESOL conference helps me to meet the objectives of my department and my existing job responsibilities because it helps me to stay current and up to date in my field. It also gives me the opportunity to network with thousands of ESL professionals and learn about what is working and not working in other programs and other classrooms. The knowledge that I gain at this conference helps me to be the best resource that I can be for my students, the department, and the college, and helps me to be the best teacher that I can be.

This grant has helped in fostering my professional development goals by giving me the opportunity to attend the largest event in the field of TESOL. If I could only do one professional development activity per year, it would be a very easy choice. The national TESOL conference is the best learning opportunity in the field, and an amazing place to learn, network, and find out the latest and greatest things going on in my field. At this conference, I was able to explore many areas of interest to me, including technology, culture, and a variety of teaching techniques, making this conference a great opportunity for professional growth.

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