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

Report Form

IIPD grant recipients must report on grant-funded activities in order to remain eligible for future IIPD grant program consideration. All grant recipients are required to submit a summary report of the completed project or activity to the Grants Office at the time that they submit their IIPD Reimbursement Form.

Name: Nick Antonakis and Robin VanRooyen    Job Title/Department: Professors/Visual Arts
Phone: 234-4185 and 234-4184   Email Address: nantonak@grcc.edu and ryanrooy@grcc.edu
Date of IIPD Award (insert year award was received): October 2010    March ______
year     year

Purpose of Grant:

To participate in the learning and professional development offered by the international culinary competition of the Coupe du Monde de la Patisserie, held every two years in Lyon, France. As members of Team USA competing in this event, we were there to support and witness our design efforts in competition with the design efforts from other nations. Primarily, however the goal of this process was to learn as much as possible about design applied to culinary showpieces and about culinary processes which influence the visual form of the showpieces. This knowledge was needed for the development of our new course which is created to teach GRCC Baking and Pastry Arts students the art of designing culinary showpieces.

Please answer the following questions. Attach additional documentation if necessary:

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

This grant enabled us to see first-hand the designs and creations of 22 nations at the highest level of competition. The knowledge we gained was essential to the shaping and writing of a new course: AT 135 Culinary Art and Design. Our instructional strategies are now transformed by what we witnessed during the competition. Knowledge of what is possible with the culinary media of chocolate, sugar, and ice has informed our decisions of what will be emphasized in the course we have CARPed and recently have passed through the CARP approval process.

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

As stated above the knowledge gained from our participation in this competition will be directly related to teaching strategies that will result in stronger learning outcomes. The students will
receive better examples of effective use of design principles and their application to the culinary media. Student success will depend not only on learning abstract design theories but also on the visualization of their application. Moreover, now we have knowledge that will enable us to impact student learning as it pertains to processes available to the culinary artist to help transform design theory into sculptural forms that communicate visual cohesion and strength.

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

We have not started teaching this new course, but hope that it will be offered for the first time in Fall 2011. We feel that the impact of our grant activity will be evident and measurable through the attainment of course outcomes and the students’ design portfolios.

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.

The first step in this process has been to finish writing the CARP of the new Design course for GRCC Baking and Pastry Arts students. This has been accomplished and the CARP has been approved pending a decision for a prerequisite or co-requisite course that the Culinary Arts program will decide to institute.

Related to this first step is the natural follow-up of offering the new course in the Fall of 2011. This will provide us the opportunity to share our learning with the culinary students.

Informally (during Department meetings and other conversations) we have shared our experiences with colleagues in the Visual Arts Department.

Also informally, we have shared our experiences with students in our classes. They have gained an appreciation for the use of artistic design applied to a medium that they might not have associated in the realm of the visual artist. This has broadened their understanding of the exciting possibilities available to them as prospective professionals in the visual arts.

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

This grant activity supports the Visual Arts Department objective of offering our community of learners experiences that will help them develop as artists and successfully achieve their goals. In this instance the interdisciplinary approach of this activity is very exciting as it brings visual learning to a new audience for our department. Our goal is to team-teach this new course and coordinate our skills to the learning objectives of this new course. This will be an excellent opportunity for us to grow as artists and educators in an unprecedented field. We feel that the direction we have taken here in Grand Rapids will be ultimately copied and utilized in some form by the culinary field across the country and probably further afield.

6. How has this grant helped in fostering your professional development goals?
Our goal as professionals has been to continuously use our abilities to serve the objectives of our Department and GRCC’s mission. New learning has consistently fostered our ability to respond to new needs in our visual arts field. In this case, our coordination and cooperation with the culinary program and especially professor Gilles Renuson, has provided new opportunities for learning and professional development. Although we might not have expected this direction some years ago, we are gratified to have the opportunity to develop new skills and knowledge that will enable GRCC students to succeed in their chosen fields. This grant activity has been instrumental in helping us accomplish our professional development goals.

7. Please add any other comments you would like to include in this report.
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