Teaching about Diversity Fund

Final Report

Project Name: Increasing Diversity in Caribbean Studies at Ryerson
Date: June 2 2014 Submitted by: Camille Hernandez-Ramdwar
Year of Funding: 2013-2014

Project Abstract (max 200 words)
Your abstract of your findings should include enough detail so that rationale, methodology and outcomes are clear. Use plain language as this abstract will be posted on the LTO website.

The project is twofold: 1) to develop a new Caribbean Studies course at Ryerson “Haiti and Cuba: Revolutionary Societies”, designed to contribute to the diversity of Caribbean Studies offerings in particular and to the curricular diversity of Ryerson on the whole; and 2) to develop a Caribbean Studies @ Ryerson website, emphasizing the diversity of the scholarly field and the region, and encouraging online faculty, student and community exchanges and discussion. Both resources are interdisciplinary and engage in teaching and learning about diversity.

Summary of Work Accomplished (max 1500 words)
Describe the study rationale (including supportive literature), project methodology, outcomes and potential application of outcomes.

As part of project funding, I presented a paper at the Estudios Sociorreligiosos Conference in Havana, Cuba entitled “Religion and Tourism in Trinidad”. The trip was not only to present the paper but also to gather data for the course development.

The “Haiti and Cuba” syllabus has been completed. The Caribbean Studies @ Ryerson website is still under development due to the situation with the RA not completing any of the work. It should be ready to go online sometime in June 2014 and it is hoped will be fully operation by the time of the Caribbean Studies Certificate launch in October 2014.

Evaluation of Project’s Success (max 600 words)
Explain how you know that the project was successful (Include evidence of rigorous evaluation.)

The success of the project is demonstrated by the completion of the two deliverables: the course and the website. Once these are established (ie. the course adopted and taught as part of the Caribbean Studies curriculum, the website open to the public and receiving feedback, number of hits etc.) it will be possible to evaluate the success in a different way.

Transferables (max 500 words)
List and describe knowledge gained in this project and how that knowledge could benefit faculty members in the Ryerson community

Knowledge gained includes learning about the history and cultures of Haiti and Cuba; also about contemporary issue affecting these countries such as globalization, tourism, migration, disaster, migration. In liaising with the CMS, I have learned something about he designing and implementation of a website at Ryerson, which will be useful in future
endeavors. I intend to learn more about the maintenance of the website so that I can do this myself, or train an RA to do this for me.

Faculty members in the Ryerson community will be able to avail themselves of specific knowledge on Haiti and Cuba via the course syllabus, or by taking the course itself. They will also be able to access a wealth of knowledge and interact with other faculty and community members, as well as students, via the Caribbean Studies @ Ryerson website.

**Media or Publication (max 500 words)**

List any media attention your project has received internally from Ryerson or externally. List any publications or conferences you have attended where data from this project was presented. Confirm that you acknowledged or will acknowledge the grant’s contribution to your work in media, publication or conference presentations.

There will be a note on the website stating that partial funding came from the Learning and Teaching Office Teaching About Diversity grant.

The launch of the website will take place in the fall of 2014 simultaneous with the launch of the Chang School Certificate in Caribbean Studies, of which I am Academic Coordinator. An announcement will be made to the Ryerson community, media and the wider community about the existence of the website. At this time I will certainly acknowledge the support of the TDF Fund from the LTO office. I also intend to submit the Haiti & Cuba course for approval (again in the fall of 2014) at the departmental level (Sociology), and also to the Chang School. At this time I will again acknowledge the support of the TDF/LTO in the development of the course.