

**Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley  
Faculty Seminar Proposal**

**Drama and Diversity: possible points of collaboration between the associated colleges.**

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As the population of the United States grows more diverse, so will the student body of the North Country. Because the Associated Colleges prepare citizens of the future, it is essential they consider this increasing diversity. While each campus struggles with this issue in different ways, the theatre may provide a unique tool to unite the four colleges around this common concern. Since the age of the Greeks the theatre has been an instrument to bring communities together and engage in civic dialogue.

The purpose of this seminar is to bring together faculty and staff from each of the associated colleges to discuss the possibility of pooling resources to ensure a yearly theatre production on the theme of diversity. Among the questions considered:

- What is the purpose of annually producing a play dealing with diversity?
- Who is the audience for such a production?
- How could such a project be sustained?
- What criteria would be used to select these plays?
- What plays exist that we would consider producing?

**Number of meetings:**

Four. One on each of the campuses.

#1 Agenda

- Introductions
- What is the status of diversity programming on each campus?
- Report on previous productions at SLU and SUNY Potsdam.
- Development of mission statement for this project.

## #2 Agenda

- Re-introductions.
- Review mission statement.
- How would this project be connected to existing curriculum at the four colleges? In small groups develop specific action plans and identify faculty/staff to approach.
- Assignment of texts and reading schedule for next meeting.
- Creation of sub-committees on 1) budget and 2) production schedule.

## #3 Agenda

- Reports from each campus about the status of their action plans and recruited faculty.
- Report from sub-committees on 1) proposed budget and possible funding sources and 2) production schedule.
- Discussion of texts- what is useful about this type of play? What might be problematic if produced for our students?
- Development of criteria for selecting the annual diversity play.

## #4 Agenda

- Review and finalize action plans.
- Review and finalize criteria for selection. Should we use one of the texts we have read, or continue searching for the first play of this project?
- Review and finalize budget for next year.
- Review and finalize production schedule.

## End Products

- Diversity Play Mission Statement
- Criteria for Selecting the Annual Diversity Play
- List of Cooperating Faculty
- Four Action Plans for Integrating the Diversity Play Into the Academic and Cultural Life of Each Campus
- Production Calendar for 2009-2010 School Year
- Budget for 2009-2010 School Year

## **Participating Faculty:**

NOTE: Because Clarkson and Canton do not have departments of drama the recruitment of faculty and staff has been more difficult than at the other two colleges. I expect to do more recruitment over the summer so that each college has at least three representatives.

Clarkson

- Jennifer deCoste, Associate Vice-President for Institutional Diversity Initiatives

SUNY Canton

- Lashawanda Ingram, Director of Diversity and Orientation

SUNY Potsdam

- Dr. John Youngblood, Department of English and Communications, School of Arts and Sciences,
- Dr. Jay Pecora, Department of Theatre and Dance, School of Arts and Sciences,
- Shelia Marshall, Center for Diversity,
- Dr. Dennis Conrad, Department of Special Education, School of Education and Professional Studies,

St. Lawrence University

- Anne Marie Gardiner, Department of Speech and Communication, St. Lawrence University
- Shawn Whitehead, Assistant Chaplin

**Budget:**

Texts: 15 copies of

Spinning into butter @\$13	\$195
White People @ \$7.50	\$112.5
Gem of the Ocean @14	\$210
Stop/kiss @7.50	\$112.5
Laramie Project @ \$13	\$195

Duplicating: \$100

Total:

\$925