

Mr. Martinez,

With gratitude, we offer our final report for the *Innovation in Diversity & Inclusion Grant Program* from the Innovation in Diversity & Inclusion Grants Council. Because of the \$750.00 of financial support, 30 undergraduate students attended the *Interfaith Youth Core Leadership Institute*. The Interfaith Leadership Institute (ILI) is the largest gathering of students and educators with a commitment to American religious pluralism, and due to the pandemic, for the first time the conference occurred online, making it accessible to more students than ever before.

As with previous years, hundreds of people who care about the future of our religiously diverse society joined together to learn, train, share, and get inspired to bring the movement for interfaith cooperation back to their campuses and communities. This was certainly the case for our students' participation. Students in HON 382: Leadership and the Good Life, a course focused on interfaith leadership and questions of meaning/purpose, learned to bridge divides and forge friendships across lines of religious and worldview differences.

Through this experience, students obtained a sense of community by focusing on communication and cooperation among diverse constituencies of the University community, fitting well into the guidelines of the grant. Furthermore, developing cultural competency around religion and worldview aligned with the University mission, values statement, and strategic plan. Students voiced in class reflections (written and oral) the immense impact the conference had on their understanding and appreciation of diverse religious, philosophical, and worldview perspectives, and for several it launched a new desire to create interfaith leadership opportunities on campus at WCU. The written reflections can be made available as supporting assessment evidence upon request.

Because of this event, momentum around interfaith dialogue has increased, ultimately leading to *Better Together Days*, a week of virtual conversation, action, and education about interfaith leadership at West Chester University of PA. This event, a collaboration among the Honors College, Department of Philosophy, and Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. These groups worked together to bring a guest speaker from Interfaith Youth Core to a virtual audience of 95+ students/faculty/staff/administrators, host a panel of student leaders in religious organizations on campus, and the launch of an initial interfaith task force meeting on campus. As we look forward to a return to campus in Fall 2021, opportunities for further interfaith leadership efforts on campus abound, and thanks to your support, student interest has been ignited, nurtured, and sustained.

Sincerely,

Mr. Zachary Wooten, *Honors College Instructor of Leadership Studies*

Dr. Matthew Pierlott, *Chair of Philosophy Department & Associate Professor of Philosophy*