
Gap Between Unity

Project Proposal

MISSION STATEMENT

Through bringing awareness about the cultural gaps in our schools' curriculum, we can provide culturally appropriate educational environments for indigenous students in NM, in order to increase their graduation rates in the future.

PROBLEM

The community health issue I've chosen for my CWP project is the education system in NM and how it's failing. There are many root causes to this problem. For example: poverty, cultural gaps, overcrowded schools, lack of proper teacher training and more. For this project, I am focusing on the root cause of cultural gaps in education. A lack of culture recognition in education leads to students not getting opportunities to learn about who they are, where they come from or don't get to explore/ represent their own or the culture of others. This can then cause a lack of interest in attending school, causing high dropout rates among diverse students. Studies show 80% of students in Albuquerque are diverse, and 40% of those students are dropouts.

PURPOSE

The overall goal is to figure out how we can better the learning environment or criteria for students to lower the dropout rate among students of color. This can help students of color feel more confident and comfortable in expressing their opinions or expressing themselves in an educational environment.

DRIVING QUESTION

How can we, as student advocates, address cultural gaps in education in order to create an inclusive learning environment for indigenous students?

CLIENTS

High School Students: Indigenous, Hispanic, & African American

The audience I want to focus my project around are Indigenous, Hispanic, and African American students. I chose this audience because in my opinion this is the audience that receives very little opportunity when it comes to education.

ROLE

The role I will be playing within this project is to advocate and bring awareness towards this issue. As an advocate, you ensure students get the help and resources they need to engage in a positive learning experience. By partnering with community organizations to help come up with a solution as to how we can better the environment or criteria for students of color to feel more involved and/or appreciated.

PRODUCTS

Video Documentary

The product for my CWP project is a video documentary of how my issue impacts students of color and how we can fix it. The purpose of this documentary is to bring awareness towards the issue. The documentary will have interviews with people who first hand have experienced cultural gaps in education and how it makes them feel. The documentary also has suggestions from the participants on how they feel this issue can be solved.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Mahpiya BlackElk #1 - Contact Information

- blackelk@nacainspireschoolsnetwork.org

INTERNSHIP/SHADOWSHIP

Internship #1 - X3 Public Health Researcher Internship

The X3 Health Researcher consultancy was an internship opportunity designed to provide students with an authentic learning experience as a Public Health Researcher. This opportunity provided me with many different professional and career skills. The X3 Public Health Researcher Internship helped me grow professionally by teaching me how to create the proper surveys, how to interview potential community partners, how to properly take notes, and how to find the proper

resources for my research. I was able to apply the information I learned to my project by creating surveys to get statistics for my project, and by finding articles to support my chosen issue.

COMMUNITY PROJECT or SERVICE

To ensure my documentary reaches the right audience, I will advertise it on social media by creating a facebook page that follows organizations that work with my audience. Following those organizations can help forward the documentary to people who might be interested in viewing or even participating in.

MATERIALS or RESOURCES

The materials and resources I will need for this project are a camera, a proper setting and a story. The people I will need to make this work are my intended audience (African Americans, Hispanic/Latinos, Native Americans).

HEALTH DOMAINS

Determinants of Health

The determinants of health impact my issue in many ways. For example, living in a low income community can impact the resources an education system can provide for students causing a negative impact on the social support a school can provide.

Health Systems

The healthcare system that surrounds my CWP topic the most is the education system, it's what I would like to change or bring awareness to with my CWP project. For example, being able to change the criteria or making the environment more comfortable can help change the education system, and can bring more appropriate social support for students or color causing lower dropout rates.

RESEARCH

Race, Cultural Capital, and Schooling: An Analysis of Trends in the United States by Matthijs Kalmijn and Gerbert Kraaykamp

Due to the lack of cultural recognition from teachers, it can lead students to develop mental illnesses such as high levels of stress, anxiety, and depression causing a loss of identity, integrity and personality. For example, studies show 94.1% of female students, 91.1% of male students are stressed due to their educational experience, 97% of students stated they had some form of anxiety disorder, and 73% of students stated they have some form of depression (keep in mind 80% of students in Albuquerque are diverse.)

Understanding The Discipline Gap Through a Cultural Lens: Implications for Education of African American Students by Carla R. Monroe

A study done in the University of Charleston claims teachers rules, behavior expectations, and policies are closely aligned with norms found in white or middle class circles. For example, teachers identify elevated voice levels, self-initiated student speech, self-directed student movement, and displays of emotion as a sign of inappropriate class behavior but, these actions are associated with many other cultures. This proves many students are taught by teachers with little or no background in the students culture, language, traditions and history. This then leads to students having to re-develop their point of views on social institutions or behaviors causing a sense of loss for personality and or values. Studies show 90% of the teaching population is white, 10% of the teaching population are ethnic minorities, 80% of students in Albuquerque are diverse, and 40% of student dropouts are diverse.

APPENDIX B

Project Assessment Tool

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MdjPB3IPu9B1qxf7Jt2RIYqT4KHpN9V-DbcgpITEWaQ/edit>

