

Past Mini-Grant Award Recipients & Project Descriptions

2014-2015

Open Access Instructional Video: Leadership, Spirituality, & Religion

Stuart Allen, Department of Organizational Leadership, Robert Morris University

Peter Williams, The Graduate School, Northcentral University

Michael DiLauro, Department of Media Arts, Robert Morris University

Leadership and spirituality is a topic of growing interest in an era where globalization increases interaction between diverse groups. Research also suggests increased worker interest in spirituality and religion and a desire to engage spirituality at work. Leaders and followers often draw upon spiritual or religious beliefs and practices as a source of strength, community, and identity. The authors will create a 15 -20 minute instructional video for use in higher education and leadership development highlighting connections between leadership, religion, and spirituality in a scholarly and balanced manner suitable for nonsectarian or faith-based leadership education programs. The video and related materials (guidebook and discussion questions) will review key concepts, historical perspectives, and leadership theory and practice, as well provide students with an opportunity to explore and reflect on spirituality and religion in their leadership development, identity, and practice (e.g., responding to workplace spiritual and religious diversity).

The Power of Partnerships: Exploring Deliberative Civic Engagement

Strategies for Community Change and Leadership Identity Development

Brandon W. Kliever & Kerry L. Priest, Staley School of Leadership Studies,

Kansas State University

The use of the high impact practices of service learning and community engagement have been shown to develop values and competencies of socially responsible leadership in students. But, what is the impact on the community itself? How do these partnerships create real community change and enhance the leadership development of community members in true democratic, engaged processes? We have partnered with the local United Way to facilitate a series of deliberative civic engagement forums intentionally designed to support community voice and capture non-traditional ways of knowing and understanding. Our research collaboration will use story circle methods to illuminate community issues and action strategies through the lens of public narrative. This process will not only produce information for our community, but offer insight on leadership identity formation from both an undergraduate student and community member perspective.

2015-2016

Changing Lives and Building a Better Future

Donnette Noble, Organizational Leadership, Roosevelt University

With support from the United States (U.S.) Department of Education's Experimental Sites Initiative (ESI) and the Second Chance Pell Pilot Program which allows incarcerated Americans to receive Pell Grants to pursue postsecondary education, the Evelyn T. Stone College of Professional Studies (ETSCPS) at Roosevelt University will exponentially expand its current commitment to social change and community development (the sixth initiative of the National Leadership Research Agenda) by reconstituting a program and offering a flex-track Bachelor of Arts degree encompassing the accredited and highly regarded Organizational Leadership (OLED) major to incarcerated individuals in the state of Illinois. This grant will support continued course development and program evaluation.