**Social Work Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity Project - Summary Report**

**Submitted By:** Social Work Department, Faculty of Health and Human Services

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In the winter of 2014, the Social Work department put in a proposal for an Internationalization Grant with the aim of revising and enhancing curriculum in order to meet program goals of increasing cultural awareness capacity and enhancing cultural competencies among students. We proposed to revise curriculum in two distinct programs within the Social Work department: the face-to-face two year Social Services Diploma program and the fully online Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program.

Expected outcomes of the proposed activities were articulated as follows:

…to have a much richer curriculum in terms of addressing the goals of our program in equipping students with the knowledge and skills in order to practice in an intercultural environment. We also anticipate that the purposeful revision of our courses across the spectrum will enable students to respond more effectively in an increasingly diverse society and will assist in more fully achieving the accreditation standards of the Canadian Council on Social Work Education. We look forward to the challenge of curriculum revision in our fully online BSW program which provides the potential of sharing resources with other areas of the institution that are engaged in educational endeavors.

The outcomes were based on two key areas within the Social Work department. The first was an identified goal coming out of the Social Services program review that stated *“To enhance learning experiences focusing on (ie. culture)”.* The second area is imbedded in the BSW program mission and goals which include:

* *To foster the development of diverse and culturally responsive communities*
* *To work towards the elimination of structural in equities and promotion of human rights through the advancement of social justice and meaningful participation of all peoples in a community and global context.*

(BSW Self-Study Report, 2013, p. 4)

It was also understood that this project would build on the work that was done in Phase I & II of the CYC Cultural Attunement Project. International Education approved our grant application and the Social Work Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity Project was implemented. This phase included the following development work:

* Creating and incorporating a cultural development model to guide pedagogical changes that fit with a social work lens. Based on the research, a teaching model was identified as relevant for developing cultural sensitivity/competency among students in the Social Work program. The teaching model draws on information/models gleaned from the literature and was incorporated into a visual based depiction. A power point presentation was also developed as an explanatory tool and presented to faculty (Attached)
* A further review of faculty resources for relevant materials and updating the faculty resource list that was created in the CYC project (Attached)
* Meeting with individual instructors within the Social Work department to determine cultural diversity content and resources for each course in the both the Social Services diploma program and the BSW program.
* Reviewing course outlines to ensure competencies relating to diversity are featured in course outlines.
* Researching books, articles and online materials and developing a list for use in Social Work courses across four years of curriculum.
* Utilizing exercises and case studies identified in the CYC project for inclusion in the social work curriculum. Filling in gaps with additional research, identification and development of exercises, videos and assignments for use in face-to-face and online courses. A determination was made as to best fit for courses in the context of the guiding model and appropriate program year. (Sample attached)
* Closely working with the CYC faculty around piloting the *Intercultural Effectiveness Survey (IES)* evaluation tool and engaging in debriefing regarding the feasibility of future use of the tool.
* Consultation and discussion with faculty regarding curriculum revision and evaluation methods.
* Meetings with a number of programs where project outcomes, materials and curriculum were shared and distributed. These programs included: Child & Youth Care, Early Childhood Education, School and Community Support Worker program and Nursing.
* Project outcomes and materials were also shared with faculty of the School of Health and Human Services, Assiniboine Community College.
* A workshop proposal was created based on both the CYC and Social Work internationalization projects.

In closing, we are grateful for the grant that was given to us for the purposes of internationalizing the curriculum across four years in the Social Work program. This opportunity enhanced our curriculum and brought a greater awareness to our role in preparing students for practice in an increasingly culturally diverse world.