

## **Center for Women's InterCultural Leadership Grant Report Template**

**Activity/Program Title:** Taking SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER to the A.C.T. F.

**Activity/Program Dates:** January 11-15, 2005

**Number of Attendants:** 22 students, 4 faculty

**Which of the following CWIL goals do you think this activity/program met?**

- Bringing Diverse People Together/Crossing Boundaries
- Thinking in New Ways About Women's Leadership
- \* Enriching SMC Environment for the Development of Women Leaders
- \* Serving as a National Resource for Change

**How did this activity/program meet the goals you checked?**

**This theatre piece is *\*not\** like other plays seen at the festival, nor in most theatre auditoriums, to be honest. This play, while purposely presented with strong theatrical devices, is an educational piece which informs an audience of inspiring global cases of individual heroism going up against appalling atrocities committed by those in power against those citizens who have none. The drama is meant to inform, shock, inspire, lead and guide us. I believe that the experience of watching it can, indeed, transform individuals. Society, or national government, can only make positive changes if *\*individuals\** commit to making those changes. By SMC students telling these human rights stories on the stage, in front of their peers from colleges and universities across a five stage region, they are assuming leadership in making change, in "speaking truth to power."**

**Please describe any new collaborations (on or off campus) that resulted from this activity/program.**

**Students and faculty alike got the chance to meet new theatre associates at the festival because of the high visibility of our performance. The collaborations which can result from these discussions will continue to unfold. For more specific examples, please see the later question and answer regarding "successes."**

**What were the highlights of the activity/program?**

**Re-framing and re-rehearsing the piece over the Christmas break were highlights. Given the graduation of some of the previous performers, it was exciting to introduce these true-to-life heroic folks from around the world to new Saint Mary's students who now had the opportunity to become a part of the cast or crew.**

**It was very exciting to perform for the packed, 650 seat theatre on the opening night**

**of the festival. The students did a brilliant job of a show which had been shortned, re-cast, re-blocked, etc. and received a very generous, exciting ovation when it was over. We were all very proud.**

**What would you do differently next time?**

**I would get this report done immediately after we returned! I am not being facetious. I am very appreciative of the opportunity that CWIL financing allowed our theatre students to have, and my tardiness in completing the report does not reflect my gratitude.**

**What are the next steps for this activity/project?**

**This grant was unusual in that it allowed us to share a project which we had already done (in April of 2004.) We believed that, in sharing it with the Midwestern attendees of the Region III American College Theatre Festival, we would be "spreading the word" of the inter-cultural human rights messages inherent in the play to a much wider circle than we had in 2004. Secondly, our women's college and the 90% female cast/crew of our production were the vehicles for the message being experienced by all these theatre artists from other academic institutions.**

**Please share any success stories that resulted from this experience:**

Two colleges have contacted me once we arrived back at Mary's and informed me that they want to produce the play on their own campuses next year. They asked for my help in seeking permission to do this and for finding the educational materials which are a part of making this project happen. I was thrilled that "SPEAK TRUTH" spoke to them at the festival and that they want to spread the word now in their own communities. The two schools are Marquette University in Wisconsin and the University of Indianapolis.

**If you did a program evaluation please attach a summary of the results.**

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