

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

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**Activity/Program Title:** Conference

7<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference

“Igniting the F.L.A.M.E: Future Leaders Aiming to Manifest Excellence”

Texas A & M University

**Activity/Program Dates:** January 20-23

**Number of Attendants:** 2 advisors and 8 students

**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?**

The Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference (SBSLC) provided a unique opportunity for the participants because it both allowed the students to attend a variety of leadership focused workshops and it provided an environment where eight student leaders on the Saint Mary's campus could converse with each other on topics they may not normally have the chance to discuss with each other back on campus.

Therefore, boundaries could be crossed within the group of students who attended from Saint Mary's.

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

An important collaboration, which is still in the works of being finalized, occurred with the keynote breakfast speaker, Jonathon Sprinkles, who is a motivational speaker and author of the leadership books including *Take Your Leadership to the Next Level: The & Secrets of Thriving Student Leaders*. Because Mr. Sprinkle's keynote address was in the beginning of the conference schedule, the Saint Mary's students had the opportunity to attend some of his workshops, which they wanted to since they heard him speak. This speaker left an impression on the students, and they wanted to work to bring Mr. Sprinkles on campus for possible, leadership training with the Board of Governance.

Another collaboration that is being strengthened whenever a Saint Mary's group attends the SBSLC is the connection that Saint Mary's had with the Charles E. Williams II Advanced Leadership Institute, For the past three years, Saint Mary's students have applied and been accepted into this intense leadership institute within the conference. This year, only eleven students across the country were admitted into the program, and two of these students were Saint Mary's students. Saint Mary's constant involvement in this institute helps to show, at this conference, the college's commitment to leadership development.

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

An important part of the conference for the students was that the Saint Mary's student could see how a successful student run leadership conference was done. Also, the students had the opportunity to pull the resources of the conference together and start to plan on events on the Saint Mary's campus

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

I would like all the students who participate in this conference to do a presentation afterwards.

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

While the conference part of the project is done, the next step is to continue to use the materials when planning programming and making contacts.

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

Please see the attached letters from the students who participated in the conference.

Four of the students who attended the conference were officers of the Sisters of Nefertiti, the club on campus which focuses on African American and African issues. This conference gave the officers some leadership tools and planning for the Black History Month activities, which happened on campus in February. This conference also gave the officers time to be together before the busy month of campus activities.

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

A program evaluation was not done.