

**PARENT & FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
Grant Request**

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**Billy Joe Varney Foundation Account 02-11010-1190**

**Seeking funding for:**  
**The Social Justice Leadership Center's Heritage/Awareness Months**

**Program Overview:**

The Social Justice Leadership Center supports, advocates, and educates the University of Arizona and the greater community in the areas of inequality and social injustices found in our society. The SJLC looks at how socially constructed identities, actual and perceived, are formed, supported, and perpetuated through the distribution of power, privilege, and oppression. The SJLC serves as a source of information and programmatic support for students who wish to change the current cultural climate of campus. In its largest role the SJLC collaborates with partners across campus such as, the Multicultural Affairs & Student Success Office, the Women's Resource Office, ASUA, and the Disabilities Resource Center to develop and implement Heritage Months and Awareness Weeks. The Heritage Months and Awareness Weeks serve to highlight and provoke dialogue around marginalized communities. In the 2007 - 2008 academic year the SJLC has hosted programs such as, Black History Month, Asian Pacific American Month, Coming Out Week, Transgender Week, and Chicano/Latino Heritage Month. The programs associated with the Heritage Months and Awareness Weeks are as diverse as the topics they address, panels discussing interracial marriage, workshops that focus the discourse on how media portrays women, documentary forums on the sex slave industry, and nationally known speakers like Kate Bornstein. Programs such as those bring students and the community together to learn, experience and challenge each other in the realm of social justice. Additionally, Heritage Months and Awareness Week demonstrate to individuals of these marginalized communities that the University will stand beside them in their ongoing quest for social justice. Furthermore, these programs provide students a voice and a forum to express their voice, quiet often marginalized students express there are limited or no spaces on campus where they can educate others, have open dialogues on issues pertaining to their specific community and be able to celebrate their identity with others, Heritage Months and Awareness Weeks provide the very space these individuals are looking for.

**Brief Summary of Grant Request:**

The Social Justice Leadership Center is requesting a grant of \$5000.00 in order to cover the cost of major speakers for the Heritage Months. Major speakers provide students an opportunity to cultivate knowledge via another's experience as a marginalized individual and empower students to become allies and activists of social justice. This amount would allow the SJLC to contract with speakers for each of the heritage months for the 2008 - 2009 academic school year.

**Detailed Statement: How will the proposal benefit a majority of students and meet immediate student needs?**

The Ford Foundation's Campus Diversity Initiative conducted a survey of Americans' opinion about diversity on college campuses, 71% of Americans feel that diversity education unites individuals of different backgrounds, and 91% believed that developing an understanding of cultures and individuals can enhance and bridge relationships across cultures<sup>1</sup>. The Heritage Months and Awareness Weeks serve such a purpose for the University of Arizona community. Heritage Months and Awareness Weeks are free and open to the student body and Tucson community; our programs provide various avenues in which an individual can submerge in social justice and different cultures. Major speakers attract larger numbers of individuals and draw awareness to issues that are often overlooked. Speakers of national notoriety can enhance the prestige and credibility of programming thus building momentum to create change. Larger speaker formats provide students with an opportunity to gain knowledge and experience in a manner that is less confrontation, especially for those individuals that are just beginning to understand social justice. Additionally, this programming provides students who are members of marginalized communities a space to voice their thoughts, opinions, concerns, and highlight their unique culture.

**Itemized Budget: Including additional funding sources, university support, excluding personnel costs.**

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM AND/OR SERVICE	\$ AMOUNT
Contracted Program Expenses	5000.00
AV/Production Equipment	500.00
Facility	200.00

<sup>1</sup> Chenoweth, K. (1998). Poll Confirms That Americans Want Diversity on Campuses, *Black Issues in Higher Education*, 15(18), 12 - 13.

Advertising/Give-Aways	1500.00
Catering/Food	300.00
Miscellaneous	300.00
Total Expenses for Five Heritage Months	7800.00

**Outcomes, Measures, and Assessment:**

It is through interacting with our collaborators, students, faculty and staff members that we have ascertained a positive response to having major speakers for Heritage Months and Awareness Weeks. Additionally, post program assessments demonstrate students and the community feel empowered and educated by speakers who share their personal stories and experiences. We will continue to assess all aspects of our programming and the impact we are making on the campus and community at large. We will continue to directly measure responses via post programming surveys and having an open dialogue with our collaborators and members of these marginalized communities. Through our evaluation process we will develop programs that meet the needs and the demands of the student body, and we will adhere to our mission; supporting, educating, and advocating for social justice. Our programs will continue to provide students with an opportunity to gain new experiences, challenge new and old beliefs and cultivate new relationships that bridge cultures. We will continue to ensure that our programs are held to the highest standards and to seek out knowledge and individuals with expertise in the area of social justice in order to surpass expectations of all individuals.