Promoting EDI: Targeted Funding for Collaborative Projects

ACRL TSIG Annual Meeting
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Northern Illinois University Libraries

- 15,000 students: 11,000 undergrad, 4,000 grad
  - 20% Latinx, 17% Black, 6% Asian
- 3,000 faculty and staff
- 2 million physical volumes
- 54 library staff
- $3,000,000 materials budget
  - 90% on continuing resources
- Library Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee
Our Project

• Diversity audit of journalism collection
• LEDI Committee: extra funding to improve collection diversity, equity, and inclusion
  – Librarians know their areas and what is needed
  – Created proposal, advocated with administration
Application Information

• Title of project:
• Goals of project:
• For a diversity audit, what call number area will you be reviewing? What method(s) will you use for evaluation of current holdings?
• If not a diversity audit, please describe the method(s) you will use:
• Criteria to be used for selecting new materials to purchase:
• Who will work on this project?
• Dollar amount requested:
Process

• Applications reviewed and approved by library administration
• All applications approved in FY23
• Ordering
  – Use regular order process and vendors
  – All ordered at one time; separate list also required
  – Single fund/reporting code for all
  – Project noted on orders
Project Example: Student Success and Well-Being Collection

Your Future. Our Focus.

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Project Example: Student Success and Well-Being Collection


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Project Example: Student Success and Well-Being Collection

A student-driven collection development project in order to increase library resources that will support the success of students who have been historically marginalized in higher education.

Gender and Sexuality Resource Center
Undocumented Student Resource Center
Latino Resource Center
Military and Veteran Services
Criteria

• Not currently held by NIU libraries
• Available in print
• Not a textbook
• They support student success. For example:
  – books that focus on study habits,
  – mental or physical wellbeing,
  – navigating college,
  – fiscal habits,
  – and those related to the experiences of students with identities that have been historically marginalized.
Project Example: Student Success and Well-Being Collection

Sample Titles

- **This Arab Is Queer**
  An Anthology by LGBTQ+ Arab Writers
  Edited by Elias Jabouran

- **Somewhere We Are Human**
  Foreword by Viet Thanh Nguyen
  Edited by Reyna Grande and Sonia Guinansaca

- **Gender Euphoria**
  "Timely and Necessary." — San Francisco Chronicle

- **For Brown Girls With Sharp Edges and Tender Hearts**
  "Required reading... Moïca Rodríguez’s electrifying debut channels mercurial prose to heal the wounds of white supremacy." — Jean Guerrero, Los Angeles Times

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Project Example: Asian poetry in English translation and Asian American poetry

• The Southeast Asia Collection at NIU is of the top collections of its kind in the US

• Books on Asian poetry in English have not been well collected for two main reasons:
  – the research interests within Southeast Asian Studies
  – Asian American Studies is not the focus of the collection
Project Example: Asian poetry in English translation and Asian American poetry

- Poetry is a universal expression of culture and identity.
- $1,000 to acquire 63 books: poetry from Asia in English translation and poetry by Asian Americans.
- Serving DEI purposes: Asian American students, and the public.
• 7 projects
• $10,800 allocated
• 296 items
• Mainly physical books, some ebooks and scores
• Topics
  – Poetry
  – Student success
  – Music
  – Children’s picture books
  – Counseling
• Success! We will continue the program in FY24
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