2020 - 2021
SSW Anti-Racism Fund

DEInnovation Grants
May 2021
Anti-Racism Fund Goals

The student-led Anti-Racism Fund group at the School of Social Work invited MSW and PhD students to submit individual and student group grant proposals for anti-racism projects with the goal of confronting and combatting:

- Anti-blackness
- Racism against Indigenous peoples and
- White supremacy
Anti-Racism Fund Guidelines

All proposals by SSW students were to:
● Include an itemized budget of up to $1,000 for individual projects and $2,000 for group projects
● Be educational in nature
● Detail how it connects directly to the SSW mission of developing equitable, caring and socially just societies and the SSW strategic plan of developing education that is original, creative and fosters leadership while promoting genuinely respectful collaborations.
2020–2021 Student Funded Projects

Individual Project:

- Accessibility Checklist - Flavio Di Stefano

Student Group Projects:

- Guest Speaker Presentation with Barakah Sanders and Yusef Shakur - Student Social Workers in Higher Education
- Anti-Racism Workshop - School of Social Work Student Union
- Latinx Student Enrollment Diversity Initiative - Latinx Social Work Coalition
- Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Teach-ins and Storytelling Project - SSW Asian Pacific Islander Coalition
**Project Title:** Accessibility Checklist  
**Student:** Flavio Di Stefano

**Description and Goals**
A checklist for use by educators, public event planners, employers, social groups and other organizations

- To identify inaccessible and help expand access for underrepresented groups
- To open doors to intersectionality and inclusivity
- To advance BIPOC conditions by eliminating barriers to advantageous groups and spaces; eliminating indirect barriers such as codes and judgemental standards and direct barriers such as organizational bias and personal actions/language

**Method**
Interviews with small business owners, non-profits, academic representatives and other stakeholders about DEI involvement

**Deliverables**
A website to host the free Accessibility Checklist as well as other diversity resources
Description and Goals
Subject experts Barakah Sanders & Yusef Shakur were invited to speak to the social work community
● To expose structures that support racial disparities in the criminal justice system
● To provide resources for the abolition of White supremacy and systemic injustice in that system
● Discuss the idea of the New Jim Crow

Deliverables
The grant aided in the production of a speaking engagement in April 2021 which reached an estimated 50+ members of the SSW community. The event was recorded for playback.
Description and Goals
The group will offer presentations and educational sessions that will integrate anti-racist ideas with the practical application of skills

- To amplify BIPOC voices and magnify their work
- Cultivate a space to have conversations about anti-racism, White privilege and allyship
- Help to create movement and foster active participation in anti-racist pedegogy
- Equip participants with proper tools to combat racism

Methods
Utilizing the P.O.D.S. (privilege, oppression, diversity and social justice) framework to aid discussion
Pre and post surveys to track project curriculum effectiveness

Deliverables
Sharing results and providing a record of qualitative feedback
Project Title: Latinx Student Enrollment Diversity Initiative
Student Group: Latinx Social Work Coalition

Description and Goals
The group aims to expand Latinx Student admission to the U-M SSW program by
● Examining practices by predominantly white schools that promote White supremacy
● Developing equity and empowerment of Latinx students of social work
● Acknowledging intersectionality and diversifying student and ally voices

Methods
Gathering information on experiences from the student point of view
Accessing information about U-M’s admission and recruitment efforts at the graduate level
Facilitated focus groups with prospective, current and graduated Latinx U-M SSW students

Deliverables
Suggested changes to recruiting and admissions policies and program improvements
Best practices document for Latinx-serving institutions including, but not limited to U-M
**Project Title:** Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Teach-ins & Storytelling Project  
**Student Group:** SSW Asian Pacific Islander Coalition

**Description and Goals**
The group aims to:
- Encourage dialogue, celebrate community and teach about the history of anti-API racism
- Foster collaboration amongst API members and BIPOC activists for “collective liberation”
- Provide a platform to shed light on uniquely Asian experiences
- Address mental health in the community

**Methods**
Organize and facilitate teach-ins and storytelling events May-June for the public at large  
Utilize targeted communication for greater elderly access (via youth advocates)

**Deliverables**
Attendees will gain cultural competency and awareness and the group will produce an action items document and put event recording on their website
Interested in Applying?

School of Social Work students who would like to brainstorm potential project ideas are invited to contact Professor Luke Shaefer (lshaefer@umich.edu) and Professor Larry Gant (lmgant@umich.edu).

Anti-Racism Fund Applications

- Student Organization Grant Application
- Individual Student Project Grant Application