

View results

Respondent

6

Kasey Umland

02:18

Time to complete

Project Questionnaire

Please provide proper and accurate information.

1. Is your project complete? *

 Yes No

2. Name of project *

WRC Ecofeminism Summit

3. Date project received financial award letter *

May 5, 2023

4. Date of project completion *

December 19, 2023

5. Date of final report submission *

December 19, 2023

6. Please describe marketing and promotion efforts for the duration of the project. *

The events were promoted through the Women's Resources Center newsletter, the WRC Instagram account, virtual signage in SDRP, Illini Union and Campus Rec, and through campus wide newsletters like Grad Links and Eweek. To market the Ecofeminism Summit and reach a large portion of our audience we focused our presence on social media such as Instagram because of its large usage by students allowed us to provide information regarding the event's workshops and speakers to a mass audience. For the posts tailored to the events we made sure they followed a nature theme because of the summit's overall topic, paid attention to detail and pursued creative layouts throughout the posts.

7. Please describe how your project faced challenges or obstacles during the duration of development. *

The few problems we encountered were regarding contracts and payments for speakers. In order to have speakers participate in the Summit they needed to be registered as a vendor through the University's system. This process is lengthy, and we had difficulty getting speakers through the process timely and efficiently. Also, regarding money transfer for payments, the accounts had to be US based. These requirements created setbacks when deciding what speakers could be invited. The issues listed were addressed by working with the speakers' assistants and the Women's Resources Center Office Manager to communicate University requirements regarding proper vending contracts and payment systems which required effective communication on both parts. In the end we were able to properly set up the speakers' contracts and payments.

8. Please describe in detail how your project has integrated student involvement, community outreach, and campus sustainability. *

The Ecofeminism Summit featured a weeklong series of programs including workshops, keynote speakers, trivia, and a book club committed to creating a space to educate and advocate for the intersectionality of feminism and environmentalism while inspiring students to act. The Fall 2023 Ecofeminism Summit took place between September 25 – September 19, 2023.

Guest speakers highlighted diverse and multi-faceted perspectives on environmentalism, social justice, and feminist theory. On September 25, Niha Eley, fashion blogger, environmental advocate, and co-founder of Tega, a sustainable fashion brand, led off the week with a well-rounded discussion on sustainable fashion, the effects of fast fashion, and the importance of raising awareness about indigenous culture and craft especially within the environmental movement. The speakers allowed students to engage in an active and inciting discussion regarding environmental issues.

Over 50 students attended the Ecofeminism Trivia Night held on September 26 in collaboration with the Illini Union Courtyard Cafe. Attendees engaged in trivia and had the opportunity to learn more about the theory of Ecofeminism while also being exposed to sustainable products and services in the local community.

On September 27, Leah Thomas who coined the term "intersectional environmentalism" and has advocated in the environmental and social justice space has used to her platform to raise awareness about the intersection of environmental issues with social issues such as racial justice, gender equality and economic disparities.

A student-led workshop was hosted by the register student organization, Students for Environmental Concerns (SECS) on September 28, 2023 at 12 noon. SECS explored the intersections of reproductive justice and environmental justice. The workshop explored the impact of menstrual production on the environment, access to reproductive care and gender affirming care as well as how the oppression of menstruating people and the environment are inherently connected.

The new addition of a Book Club this year for the Summit expanded on the connection of Indigenous knowledge within the conversation of environmental concerns and relationship between native cultures and nature. It opened and created conversation amongst students on the intersectionality of environmental issues. The Ecofeminism Summit 's events look to inspire and motivate students to have productive discussion on the content they are learning.

Throughout the Summit we made sure students at the University were involved in the project. We emphasized the importance of student engagement by reaching out to students who would also like to take part in the planning committee, planned a workshop with an on campus environmental organization founded by university students (SECS), and provided a workshop with speakers who represented emerging youth environmental work. The Ecofeminism Summit Internship provided an opportunity for a student to work hands on with the Women's Resource Center and allowed for connections and relationships to be built amongst a student and University program.

Another goal focused on was student involvement within the Summit it the first year we held a book club which would actively bring students to an open environment that encouraged participants to engage in critical thinking, analytical skills, and open-mindedness. It also allowed students to socialize and create a sense of community amongst the students and the Women's Resources Center, while emphasizing the importance of active discussion at the intersections of environmental and feminist theory. The Ecofeminism Summit has and will continue to actively work on engaging students and fostering a sense of community.

9. If applicable, please explain how the project engaged individuals from underrepresented groups and/or promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. *

The Ecofeminism Summit's main goal is to foster an environment of inclusion through highlighting intersectionality amongst environmental and feminist theory. Speakers ranged from a variety of different backgrounds and emphasized the inclusion of women of color within the environmentalist movement. Both external speakers had worked in diverse sectors regarding environmental issues from fashion and marketing to authors and advocacy. The Summit's agenda and discussion included topics that are relevant to the experiences and concerns of women of color and indigenous communities and encompassed discussions on the intersection of environmental issues, gender, race, and culture. As organizers of the events, we made sure the summit ensured diversity in leadership roles by including speakers from diverse identities and job backgrounds within the environmental movement and accounted for a variety of perspectives and underrepresented groups. Efforts were made to ensure accessibility to all individuals as the summit consisted of individuals from all cultural backgrounds, gender, majors, etc. In addition, the book featured in the book club, Braiding Sweetgrass, highlighted indigenous knowledge and science. The Ecofeminism Summit aimed to actively reach out and represent underrepresented communities and promote the summit in ways that would resonate with these communities.

Project Documentation

10. Please upload the final financial documentation for your project

<https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/student-sustainability/ssc/docs/SSC-Supplemental-Budget-Timeline.xlsx>

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 FIOL_Revenue_Expense_YTD_Transaction_Statemen_Kasey_Umland_1.pdf

 SSC-Step2-Supplemental-Budget-and-Timeline_Kasey_Umland.xlsx

11. Please upload additional project photography (not submitted in semesterly report) *

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 Ecofeminism digital advertisements_Kasey_Umland.jpg