

FINAL REPORT

SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITIES INITIATIVE

“Sustainable Technology: Sustainable Knowledge”

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**Tri-County Technical College
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SUI Annual Report on Grant

Tri-County Technical College: Anthropology 101 Course Development Grant

Primary Facilitator/ Researcher: Dr. Gary Cummisk

Overview. During the 2000-01 academic year, Tri-County Technical College was the recipient of a \$3,800 SUI course development grant to enhance the learning for students enrolled in Anthropology 101 (a new course offering at Tri-County Technical College). Dr. Gary Cummisk was the Primary Facilitator/Researcher for the project. The project was implemented according to the goals identified in the grant application. The grant funds enabled Dr. Cummisk to expand the course content in Anthropology 101 by bringing in guest scholars and lecturers, developing experiential learning course components, and purchasing learning aids such as models, videos, and technical equipment. Dr. Cummisk attended four conferences/workshops that enhanced his understanding of environmental and sustainability issues, both historical and current. In addition, participation in these conferences provided an opportunity to establish contacts with like scholars and researchers from across the state and nation.

Throughout the 2000-01 academic year, ANT 101 increased in popularity, from a single course offering with an enrollment of just over 20 students, to a two-section course offering serving 60 students. The future of ANT 101 at Tri-County Technical College appears secure, and this is due in large part to the facilitation made possible by the Sustainable Universities Grant. Furthermore, the ANT 101 SUI Course Development project has served as a catalyst for future grant writing objectives, providing a model for enhancing course content that addresses ecological and sustainability issues across the curriculum. In addition, the course development grant served to establish contacts between scholars and artists within the greater upstate community.

Guest Lecturers. Three guest lecturers came to ANT 101 to facilitate experiential learning modules. Mr. Ken Fugate and Mr. Bob McQueen, experts in traditional Native American technologies and ecology, provided two workshops on stone tool technology. Mr. Fugate is Cherokee and Mr. McQueen is of Catawba heritage. They were able to provide a perspective on historical issues while demonstrating technology that proved sustainable for many generations in the Carolinas and beyond. Artist, Heather Kline, facilitated a workshop entitled “Mystery of the Mask” wherein the symbolic role of masks was tied to the ecology and cultures of many ethnic groups. Students developed their own mask designs and produced masks that they glazed. The masks were fired by Ms. Kline and presented to the students. This hands-on experience reinforced the concept of creative process in peoples’ relation to the environment, and the importance of social construction in the perceived relationship to and management of the environment.

Attendance and Participation in Conferences. Dr. Gary Cummisk, Primary Facilitator attended regional conferences which included: (1) the “Shaping the Ecology of a City” conference at the Daniel Management Center, University of South Carolina; (2) a Palm Key nature and ecology conference on the Broad River (SC) with noted naturalist Rudy

Mancke; (3) an Earth Day Celebration that included a speech and dinner with Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson at Furman University (Greenville); (4) and a Southern Appalachian Ecology workshop at the Pine Mountain Settlement School in Eastern Kentucky.

Instructional Aids, Materials, and Equipment

Instructional aids and equipment that will provide a long-term benefit to ANT 101 were purchased. Among the equipment purchased was a scanner; a zip drive; a slide scanner; a digital camera to document classroom activities, image artifacts and archaeological sites; an inexpensive used laptop computer for taking field notes and notes at conferences; and safety goggles for working stone tools.

In teaching the human evolutionary and migration sequence of ANT 101, models of fossil skulls are a particularly useful learning aid. With grant funds, hominid skull models of five species were purchased: *Australopithecus afarensis*, *Australopithecus boisei*, *Homo habilis*, *Homo erectus*, and Neanderthal. These skulls ranged in price from \$160.00 to \$190.00. The models are made of heavy-duty resin and should provide service for decades.

Purchase of new video materials has enhanced classroom presentation and discussion as well. The three-part Nova series, "In Search of Human Origins," has served as a centerpiece in the study of human evolution. The Nova series videos, "Mystery of the First Americans" and "Neanderthals on Trial" have further elucidated discussion of evolutionary and migration issues. The PBS documentary, "Great Wall Across the Yangtze," has addressed evolutionary and natural and cultural resource management issues. "Great Wall" has proved useful in both ANT 101 and GEO 102 at Tri-County Technical College. A new nature series on DVD called "Africa" explores contemporary environmental and cultural issues across that continent.