

Final Report for ReImagine Grant
University Studies (UNST) Community Voice Amplification

How did the completed work support the goals of the ReImagine Project?

The entirety of the Community Voice Amplification Project supported the goals of ReImagine Portland State and PSU's strategic priorities to address equity and racial justice at PSU. The University Studies (UNST) Community Voice Amplification Project had three central goals that were advanced through our proposal:

1. To provide resources to BIPOC Capstone community partners from minoritized communities whose paid expertise we desperately need centered in our classrooms (potentially develop a pipeline of BIPOC adjunct faculty in Capstones).

~ This project was highly successful in centering the voices of 10 BIPOC guest lecturers in our summer and fall Capstones. Faculty and students gave us feedback that these speakers were extraordinary in sharing their lived-experience and expertise in a variety of summer and fall term Capstones. One of these community members was hired to teach Capstones in fall and two were on-boarded to co-teach Capstones. This strategy was an effective way to strengthen UNST's relationships with practitioners of color to collaboratively co-educate PSU students. We recommend that PSU continue to offer this funding for departments to diversify the teaching faculty at Portland State and to amplify the voices of minoritized communities in our classrooms.

2. To provide resources to BIPOC community experts to provide their expertise in decision-making spaces within UNST.

~ University Studies was so grateful for the funds to hire Keela Johnson to join our summer leadership team to help us reimagine our approach to diversity, equity and inclusion. Keela served as an amazing facilitator helping us move from an "Equity Talk" to an "Equity Walk" (based on a book with that title). She gave us tools, resources and frameworks to continue this work throughout this academic year. We would love to secure future funds to bring Keela back into our decision making space to continue the amplification of minoritized voices missing in our leadership spaces.

3. To amplify the voices of BIPOC community experts in our faculty development programming

~ This goal was achieved by bringing in Dr. Roxy Manning (<https://www.roxannemanning.com>) to engage in multiple faculty development trainings on Nonviolent Communication and Trauma Informed Education. Dr. Roxy Manning's sessions were transformative experiences helping us learn how to

effectively “call in” students and faculty into relationships to foster collective healing and “call out” racism in our classrooms and communities. We hope to secure funding to continue these training sessions in the years ahead.

Note: Throughout our implementation of our grant, we acknowledge the context of Portland State University (PSU) being founded on land stolen from Indigenous tribes in a state that barred Black people and all of the oppressive systems that carry forward from that rotten root, our ReImagine project sought to begin countering white centric and white supremacy structures by resourcing educational efforts initiated and/or lead by scholars of color. This \$ 25,000 grant could only do a limited amount to repair the ongoing harm of racism on campus. It is our hope the future ReImagine projects will continue anti-racist movements on and off campus, deepening our investments toward liberation for all.

Were the goals outlined in the proposal achieved?

The goals of our project were to amplify the voices of BIPOC experts to share their lived experience, voices and expertise with University Studies (UNST) in order to inform our curriculum, faculty development, mentor training and decision making spaces. The funds were used in productive and effective ways that fostered relationships with BIPOC colleagues (locally and regionally)with the intent that this work may grow and advance in future years. The initial goals of the grant were achieved, but continued funding is required in order to achieve the long-term goal of centering the voices of communities of color in University Studies and throughout Portland State.

How were the funds utilized?

\$ 17,000 was spent on diversity and equity trainers, consultants and curriculum consultants
\$ 6,100 was spent on guest lecturers from minoritized communities
\$ 900 was spent on books to diversify the UNST Library (booked used by PSU faculty and students)

IF you would like greater detail:
[Please refer to this budget tracking sheet.](#)

A brief synopsis for the OAA ReImagine Projects website

In alignment with PSU’s efforts towards racial justice, this ReImagine Community Voice Amplification Project project funded 15+ scholars of color to: guest lecture in Capstone classes, provide faculty development and mentor trainings in University Studies (UNST); advise UNST leaders on advancing racial justice efforts and decision making processes.