



BELONG TOGETHER

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

EMU's Inclusive Excellence Grants program funds 5 new projects this Spring 2023 focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

These grants are possible thanks to the generosity of Jose Koshy '76 and Jean Koshy-Hertzler '79.

Iftar Meals

This grant facilitated the provision of meals to EMU's Muslim Community during Ramadan 2023. It enabled the distribution of meals and essential resources to Muslim students and facilitated the hosting of one meal each week throughout Ramadan. We have incorporated this grant into our report of completed grants. \$1200.00

Co-leaders: **Trina Trotter Nussbaum**, Center for Interfaith Engagement; **Adesola Johnson**, student

Interreligious Companion

This project offers a stipend to an interreligious spiritual leader, aiming to facilitate connections and cultivate a sense of community among the diverse cultures on campus. This spiritual leader also provides counseling services for students and creates a space to support various religions on campus. This is a one-time funding opportunity to pilot this initiative with the intent of gathering the necessary data to determine future implementation. \$1111.11

Co-leaders: **Melissa May**, Intensive English Program; **Micah Shristi**, International Student Services; **Trina Trotter Nussbaum**, Center for Interfaith Engagement; **Brian Burkholder**, University Chaplain; **Taha Abdulrahman**, IEP alumnus; **Philip Quoqui**; **Shahin Amini**, and **Merlyna Bernal**, Students

Music Legends Display

The music department will showcase artists from diverse music genres, allowing students to encounter artists who resemble them and resonate with styles of music they might already connect with. This initiative will significantly contribute to fostering a sense of belonging for students from various backgrounds. \$1177.00

Co-leaders: **David Berry**, EMU Music Program Director, Associate Professor of Music; **Kim Souther**, Director of Shenandoah Valley Preparatory Music Program, Instructor of Music; **Kyle Remnant**, Director of Bands, Assistant Professor of Music; **Benjamin Bergey**, Director of Orchestra and Choirs, Assistant Professor of Music

Rainbow Crosswalk

The Rainbow Crosswalk represents a public gesture celebrating queer identities both on campus and beyond. Throughout this school year, students encountered a protester who repeatedly brought hateful posters onto campus, causing deep harm to the LGBTQ+ community at EMU and their peers. In response to this incident of hate, student leaders have chosen to respond with a powerful expression of love. \$1200.00

Co-leaders: **Veronica Horst; Cassidy Walker; Hannah Beck; Meredith Lehman; Greta Schrag; Indigo Gott**, students; **Jessica Albright**, Masters in Counseling Graduate student; **Melissa Hinton**, Masters in Counseling Graduate student

Raising Visibility - Literally - of Intercultural Learning for All

This grant will aid in the initial stages of conceptualization, fostering cross-departmental discussions about the significance of the intercultural program, and generating enthusiasm and visibility for the project. The grant funds will ensure meticulous attention is given to the foundational and conceptual phase of the process, with the ultimate objective of creating a high-quality, prominently displayed artistic photo exhibit that showcases the mission, vision, values, and culturally diverse potential of the intercultural program. \$1200

Co-leaders: **Byron Peachey**, Assistant Professor of Intercultural Programs; Director - Curricular Support Hannah **Nichols-Murch**, Admissions Counselor; **Ryan Good**, Associate Professor of Urban Studies, Washington Community Scholars Center