



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Narrative Section of a Successful Application

The attached document contains the grant narrative and selected portions of a previously funded grant application. It is not intended to serve as a model, but to give you a sense of how a successful application may be crafted. Every successful application is different, and each applicant is urged to prepare a proposal that reflects its unique project and aspirations. Prospective applicants should consult the Research Programs Notice of Funding Opportunity at the appropriate resource page ([Awards for Faculty at Hispanic-Serving Institutions](#), [Awards for Faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#), [Awards for Faculty at Tribal Colleges and Universities](#)) for instructions. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to consult with the NEH Division of Research Programs staff well before a grant deadline.

The attachment only contains the grant narrative and selected portions, not the entire funded application. In addition, certain portions may have been redacted to protect the privacy interests of an individual and/or to protect confidential commercial and financial information and/or to protect copyrighted materials.

The application format has been changed since this application was submitted. You must follow the guidelines in the currently posted Notice of Funding Opportunity (see above links).

Project Title: *Women of Leech Lake Nation: Historical Trauma and Colonization*

Institution: Leech Lake Tribal College

Project Director: Elaine Fleming

Grant Program: Awards for Faculty at Tribal Colleges and Universities

“Women of Leech Lake Nation: Historical Trauma and Colonization”

Research and Contribution:

This project will create a book to better understand historical events, historical trauma and colonization as it relates to Ojibwe women on the Leech Lake Reservation. The book will be written in a traditional Ojibwe storytelling style; and, focus on the elements of nationhood: language and culture, history, land base, and governance emphasizing the importance of language and culture which *rises* from the land base.

Historical trauma poses a significant threat to the traditional values and the spiritual health of indigenous people. It is shared through the stories of loss; been perpetuated by governmental legislation; and, is seen in the resulting physical and socioeconomic conditions our people are experiencing today.

According to an article in The Professional Counselor entitled, “Examining the Theory of Historical Trauma Among Native Americans” by Kathleen Brown-Rice,

“To explain why some Native American individuals are subjected to substantial difficulties, Brave Heart and DeBruyn (1998) utilized the literature on Jewish Holocaust survivors and their decedents and pioneered the concept of historical trauma. The current problems facing the Native American people may be the result of “a legacy of chronic trauma and unresolved grief across generations” enacted on them by the European dominant culture (Brave Heart & DeBruyn, 1998, p. 60). The primary feature of historical trauma is that the trauma is transferred to subsequent generations through biological, psychological, environmental, and social means, resulting in a cross-generational cycle of trauma (Sotero, 2006). The theory of historical trauma has been considered clinically applicable to Native American individuals by counselors, psychologists, and psychiatrists (Brave Heart, Chase, Elkins, & Altschul, 2011; Goodkind, LaNoue, Lee, Freeland, & Freund, 2012; Myhra, 2011).”

The article goes on to say more research is needed connecting historical trauma to today’s population. This book will speak to this issue and expand understanding for historians, humanities scholars and others by telling the stories of some of Leech Lake’s women since the early to mid-1800’s. For example, Ojibwe women were historically the ricers and gatherers. A decision made by the local government to construct dams on the Leech Lake Reservation resulted in trauma to Ojibwe women and families (loss of wild rice beds, gardens and homes) necessitating relocation and reducing access to an independent food source. The trauma that has been passed down to succeeding generations is a loss of ricing traditions, a dependence on governmental resources for a replacement food supply (annuities and commodities that introduced processed food into the family’s diet); and new long term health implications (diabetes and obesity). The role of the Ojibwe woman to care for her family’s health and wellness was compromised. Understanding historical trauma helps us understand “why” our traditions are important, why they are vanishing; and, the subsequent impact on families, particularly for Ojibwe women. The effect of historical trauma is a topic relevant to Leech Lake, indigenous people and women’s studies regardless of culture.

A large part of the research for this book is based on work from a recently completed NEH project. “Digital Repatriation, Cultural Revitalization, and Traditional Values,” Humanities Initiatives at Tribal Colleges and Universities, Leech Lake Tribal College, Cass Lake. I was the Project Director and Timothy Powell of the American Philosophical Society was the Project Coordinator. Additional research sources include:

- Leech Lake Tribal College’s recently expanded digital archive on contemporary life on the reservation.
- Research conducted by Anthropologists Albert E. Jenks and Ales Hrdlicka on blood quantum rolls and the methods used to calculate full vs. mixed blood.

- Research on Shaynowishkung, more commonly known as Chief Bemidji.
- Leech Lake Tribal College research materials gathered from the National Archives, National Anthropological Archives, the Minnesota Historical Society and the Cass County Historical Society. (Photographs, newspaper articles, the 1889 Minnesota Chippewa Commission Report, several anthropology articles and articles on the development of the Upper Mississippi Reservoir System and its effects on the Social/Economic viability of the Ojibwe people)

This book will build on these works by relating the historical events to today's symptoms of historical trauma as suggested by Kathleen Brown-Rice's research. It also addresses a gap in the literature regarding women. Women's voices on many historical issues, regardless of culture, have been absent and unheard.

Methods and Work Plan:

A major part of the research has been completed through a prior NEH grant. It focused on general history, federal governmental relations and policies with the Reservation. This project is directed toward the impact and experience of families during these historical time periods. The project work will be divided into four categories representing 12 months of full time work.

1. Review of previous research (January)
I will revisit the digital archives and resources at Leech Lake Tribal College's Library as well as the local historical societies to see if new information or updates have been received.
2. Gathering of historical stories of female Leech Lake members (January – March)
I intend to gather in depth stories from 8 geographical regions within the Leech Lake Reservation focusing on the historical eras detailed in my book's chapter outline provided on page 3. Ojibwe stories will be recounted by female Leech Lake members of themselves and/or their female ancestors describing a variety of topic including family history, their education background, how they supported their family economically, the challenges they faced; the teachings they passed on regarding the role of an Ojibwe woman; and, how they fulfilled that role. Approximately 15 – 20 stories will be documented.
3. Follow up research at the Minnesota Historical Society; the Cass, Beltrami, and Itasca Historical Societies, etc. (January – March)
Based on the information gathered through the storytelling process there may be stories of Ojibwe women who are already documented and should be referenced in my book within the appropriate historical time period. I will conduct supplemental research to include those stories.
4. Writing and finalizing the book. (January – December)
I expect to write about 1 chapter per month with a full draft completed in Fall 2019 and a final draft completed in December 2019. My storytelling technique is similar to the technique used by Basil Johnston and referenced in my bibliography. The work will be done primarily on the Leech Lake Reservation in Cass Lake, Minnesota with some travel outside of Cass Lake but within the state of Minnesota. Although I will seek publication, publishing is expected to occur after the grant period ends.

The finished book will be used as an educational and historical resource available to the public. Its content will enhance teaching the history of Leech Lake at all education levels. It will also be shared with the American Philosophical Society (the partner in the first NEH grant); Women's Studies; and, American Indian Education. The draft chapter outline for my book is as follows.

Introduction: Historical Trauma and Colonization

Ch 1 The Role and Legends of Ojibwe Women

Ch 2 The Ojibwe Migration Story

Ch 3 The Removal Era 1830-1853: Marie's Story

Ch 4 The Reservation Making Era 1853-1870: Isabel's Story

Ch 5 The Assimilation Era 1870-1934: Dottie Blue's Story

Ch 6 The Indian Reorganization Era 1934-1953: One Eyed Susan's Story

Ch 7 The Termination Era 1953-1970: Elaine's Story

Ch 8 Self Determination Era 1970 - 2000: Carolyn's Story

Ch 9 Nation Building Era 2000-Present: Moni & Lani's Story

Ch 10 Spirit Women of Tomorrow

Each chapter will describe the events of historical significance during that time period, the related historical trauma and how the symptoms of trauma have manifested themselves in Leech Lake's population today by relating family stories as told by our women from the time period and the resulting impact for these families since then. I have attached a picture and a sample of "Marie" with my writing style in the Appendix. My storytelling technique is a tradition that has been passed through generations of my family and is based in Ojibwe culture.

Competencies, Skills and Access:

I have research and educational experience as well as a network of connections within the Leech Lake Reservation to bring to this project. My major area of study is history. With two Master's degrees in Curriculum and Instruction, and Creative Writing, I have published articles about the history of the Ojibwe. The most recent was "Nanaboozhoo and the Wiindigo: An Ojibwe History from Colonization to the Present," in the Tribal College Journal, Spring of 2017. I am an enrolled member of the Leech Lake Nation; born on the reservation; and (b) (6). For the past twenty-five years I have been an instructor at Leech Lake Tribal College. My courses include Indigenous peoples: History of Leech Lake, U.S. and Indigenous American History, and Introduction to Anishinaabe Studies. I am a storyteller from a traditional Ojibwe family of storytellers. I practice Ojibwe cultural ways; share legends of Ojibwe people and the truths and values that are expressed in their stories; and, connect stories to Ojibwe history to help people understand context as well as events.

In addition to prior research, I will use the National Archives; National Anthropological Archives; Minnesota Historical Society; and Beltrami, Cass, and Itasca County Historical Societies as ongoing resources for this project. All project work is expected to be conducted in Minnesota.

Final Product and Dissemination:

The project results will be disseminated in the form of a book which will be available to the public. Stories, whether written or oral, are traditionally how our people learn about our history. Publishers under consideration are Penguin Books and Harper Perennial of New York; South End Press of Boston and the University of Minnesota Press of Minneapolis based on previous interest in Ojibwe history and culture. I also expect to write a series of articles that will be submitted to the Tribal College Journal of American Indian Higher Education.

Locally, information gained from this project will supplement resources available at Leech Lake Tribal College's Library and digital collections; and, I will use the information to enhance coursework in Anishinaabe Studies, particularly as it relates to the historical role of women in Ojibwe culture.

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