

Principal Investigator

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PI Position Title

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N/A

Proposal Title

Tribal School Swing: Bringing Music Education to the Youth of the Coeur d'Alene Reservation

Proposal Description

The proposed project endeavors to increase participation and interest in the performing arts in the Plummer-Worley School District and the Coeur D'Alene Tribal School by expanding the music education offerings reservation-wide. In the existing partnership, co-PI Jacqueline Wilson serves as a volunteer music instructor with the Lakeside Performing Arts Club and the Tribal School Culture Days, meeting with these student groups to prepare community performances. These extracurricular opportunities form the limited or sole exposure to music education on the reservation; Lakeside Elementary offers limited years of music education, and the Tribal School offers no formal music education at all. At neither school can students play in band, orchestra, or sing in choir. The proposed expansion is a collaboration with CDA Tribal Educator Shaina Nomee and Lakeside Elementary Principal, Dani Boyd, who desire increased musical opportunities for their students. Indeed, studies by the National Center for Education Statistics show that participation in extracurricular activities is connected to student engagement, attendance rates, higher GPAs, and collegiate pursuits. Therefore,

access to the performing arts, second only to sports in participation nation-wide, is invaluable and consequential.

The proposed project will address this issue in two parts: first, a collaboration with co-PI Albert Miller, instructor of MUS490 General Music Materials/Methods, a course in which music education majors learn developmental music methods such as Orff (group improvisation on keyboard instruments) and boomwhackers (pitched tubes used for ensemble playing). Dr. Miller will prepare WSU's MUS490 students to lead the CDA Tribal School students through activities and songs they have learned in class at a Culture Day, providing them the opportunity to engage with tribal communities, according to WSU's strategic goals of Student Experience and Outreach, Extension, Service, & Engagement. Second, the WSU Jazz Big Band, under the direction of co-PI Aaron Hill, will visit both the Plummer-Worley School District and the CDA Tribal School to give school-wide assemblies. Dr. Hill will serve as the emcee of these assemblies, leading his students through performances, instrument demonstrations, and Q&A sessions. Because of limited resources, assembly opportunities are rare for these schools. These assemblies will be the first opportunity that most of these students will have to see a large musical ensemble in person. The nature of Jazz as a popular dance style makes it especially suited for younger and introductory audiences. These offerings align with WSU's Core Values of Land Grant Ideals, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, & Belonging, and Global Citizenship, as well its stated responsibility to establish and maintain relationships with Native peoples.

Because of WSU Pullman's proximity to the Coeur D'Alene tribal lands, the only costs associated with these offerings are the bus rentals necessary to transport our student groups to and from the reservation. Each engagement can be accomplished in a half-day and will be scheduled in the Spring 2024 semester. These opportunities are a mutually beneficial investment in WSU and CDA students alike, serving to grow the music education at these tribal schools through increased excitement and therefore participation in the Lakeside Performing Arts Club and the Tribal School Culture Days, as well as an ongoing relationship between the Coeur D'Alene tribe and the Washington State University School of Music, enriching the vitality of our region.

Budget

Transportation:

1. 10 hour rental, MTR Western (\$980 four-hour minimum plus \$160 per hour): \$1,920.00

Travel to and from the Coeur d'Alene reservation will require a bus to transport the WSU Jazz Big Band and equipment (instruments, music stands, etc.). Based on current rates, \$1,920.00 has been budgeted for this rental: three hours of travel to and from Spokane for the bus driver, two hours of travel to and from the Coeur d'Alene reservation, two hours for assembly presentations (one hour per school), as well as three extra hours for loading/unloading, delays, and travel time between assemblies.

2. One day rental, Motor Pool (\$80.74 per vehicle per day): \$242.22

Travel to and from the Coeur d'Alene Tribal School will require three passenger vans to transport the approximately 20 students enrolled in MUS490 and equipment (instruments). Based on current rates, \$242.22 has been budgeted for this rental.

Total amount requested: \$2,162.22

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