

“Children’s Guide to Columbus”

**Mississippi University for Women
Dr. Thomas C. Richardson
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
1100 College Street MUW-1603
Columbus, MS 39701
662-329-7140**

September 2016-December 2016

08/19/2016

**Dr. Monica Riley
Professor of Education
Mississippi University for Women
1100 College Street W-1637
Columbus, MS 39701
662-329-7176
mhriley@muw.edu**

ATP PROJECT

PROJECT FOCUS: Mississippi University for Women (MUW) will implement a Children's Guide to Columbus as part of a developing Children's Museum.

PROJECT DETAILS:

Course Number, Name, and Instructor: ED 305, Teaching Mathematics in Elementary and Middle School, Debbie Fancher; ED 310, Teaching Social Studies in Elementary and Middle School, April Coleman; ED 312, Teaching Science in Elementary and Middle School, Royal Toy; and ED 334, Teaching Reading and Language Arts in Elementary and Middle School, Chrystal Hodges.

Community Partner(s): Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Need: The city of Columbus has done an excellent job in developing tourism for our city. Currently there are discussions concerning the development of a Children's Museum to encourage more family tourism and opportunities for children to participate in the rich heritage of Columbus. This project is designed to provide both increased education about Columbus and to encourage families with children to recognize Columbus as a family-friendly destination. The deep history, strong connection to the Arts, the architecture from various time periods, and the resources of the area deserve to be studied by both local children and visitors in a way that will build an appreciation for the local culture. Often local children drive passed buildings and landmarks without knowing or appreciating the richness of the area. MUW students and staff will partner with the Columbus- Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau to create opportunity for local and visiting children to learn about and enjoy Columbus.

The Columbus Children's Museum, opening in 2018, is currently planning and considering a variety of exhibits. This partnership will allow MUW students and local school children to be a part of researching and learning about Columbus and to work with the visitors' bureau to develop a potential exhibit(s) for the museum. The bureau is looking for a variety of exhibits which gives much flexibility to students as they research and plan. Some areas of need are the development of one particular time period from the history of Columbus which will offer deep learning of the pre or post-civil war era, the antebellum era, the turn of the century era, or more recent history. A focus on the history and the arts from one or more of these time periods is also a need. Further, developing a deep understanding of local resources such as catfish, cotton or the railroad could be an area of focus.

The opportunity for MUW students and local school children to work together to develop exhibit ideas for one or more of these areas or to develop an overview of

Mississippi University for Women

ATP Project Proposal

Page 2 of 5

all of the areas will perpetuate the strong story-telling history which is also part of the strength of this area.

Number and description of planned meetings with the community partner:

5 meetings are planned:

September: MUW faculty will meet with the CEO of the Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation to continue planning for the ATP project.

September/October: Candidates in the MUW teacher education program will meet with Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation representatives to research present day and historic Columbus for lesson planning.

October: Bureau representatives are invited to meet with MUW teacher candidates and K5 school children to discuss development of information to be included in sustainable video format describing a child's view of Columbus.

October/November: Bureau and MUW representatives will meet to finalize the project development.

November: Bureau and MUW representatives will meet for review of project.

Concise overview of the project, including its central focus (10-12

sentences): This project will be a partnership between Mississippi University for Women's pre-service teacher candidates and the Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau. The project will focus on developing next-generation leaders' knowledge of the rich heritage of Columbus. Both pre-service teachers and K5 students will research the cultural heritage of Columbus and develop a way to share the information with current residents and tourists from a child's perspective. Candidates will research the cultural heritage of Columbus including but not limited to its architecture, music, food, celebrations, and history. They will develop and present lessons on the research topics to K5 students from partner schools. Students from the K5 area schools will have opportunity to research and learn about the rich heritage of Columbus in each of these areas. Both MUW candidates and K5 students will work with representatives from the Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau to develop a method for sharing their research and knowledge with residents and visitors of Columbus.

Course Guidelines, Project Goals, and Project Impact: In bulleted or numbered format, explain how the project will meet the Course Guidelines, Project Goals, and Project Impact as outlined in the Scope of Work.

Course Guidelines and Project Goals: These courses are designed to train pre-service teachers in a variety of methods and materials for teaching across the content areas. One of the main goals of the courses is to train students in how to develop interdisciplinary units that span all of the content areas around a particular theme. Our theme for this year will be the cultural heritage of Columbus, MS. In using Columbus as

a theme the courses will support both Goal 4 and Goal 5 as outlined in the Scope of Work.

- Goal 4 states: **Natural and Cultural Assets**-strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by leveraging the Regions natural and cultural heritage and Goal 5 states: **Leadership and Community Capacity**-Build the capacity and skills of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development.

The course project will support both of the project goals through the following course goals:

- Candidates will engage in active research about the cultural heritage of Columbus including but not limited to its architecture, music, food, celebration, and history.
- Candidates will engage with community partners as active learners
- Candidates will understand how to connect concepts and use differing perspectives to engage learners in critical thinking, creativity, and collaborative problem solving related to authentic local and global issues
- Candidates will seek appropriate leadership roles and opportunities to take responsibility for student learning, to collaborate with learners, families, colleagues, other school professionals, and community members to ensure learner growth, and to advance the profession and the community.

The following student-centered learning outcomes will support the course goals and help fulfill the project course goals as outlined in the Scope of Work.

- Candidates will develop a unit about the cultural heritage of Columbus using active research methods.
- Candidates will actively engage with community partners during the unit development.
- Candidates will work with community partners and school aged children to develop an exhibit(s) for the Children's Museum further developing the sustainability of downtown Columbus.
- Candidates will present their research/exhibit to a civic organization
- Candidates will create a poster presentation for the conference 2016 ARC/ATP conference

Project Impact: The ATP anticipates showing project impact from the Scope of Work in the following ways

- Candidates in the MUW teacher education program will work directly with community leaders from Columbus-Lowndes Visitors and Convention Bureau to research the rich cultural heritage of Columbus using their research to plan

lessons for and teach school age children. Teaching these lessons to local children will develop awareness of the resources and heritage of Columbus.

- Candidates will seek appropriate leadership roles and opportunities to take responsibility for student learning, to collaborate with learners, families, colleagues, other school professionals and community leaders to develop lessons that can be used both in the community at the Columbus Children's Museum to promote tourism and with other teachers to promote knowledge of Columbus and field trip opportunities from across the state which will highlight local resources, history, development, and tourist opportunities.
- MUW teacher candidates, school age students and community leaders will work together to develop communication tools for the Children's Museum and classroom teachers to encourage tourism in the Columbus- Lowndes area to increase awareness of the cultural heritage of Columbus.

This project will offer opportunity for candidates at MUW, students in local schools, and The Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau to develop and strengthen lasting partnerships. It is the hope of both MUW and The Columbus-Lowndes Convention and Visitors Bureau that this partnership will continue following the close of this grant. Increased leadership capacity among university students, developing awareness of the cultural heritage of this area by elementary school children and university students, and the development of additional cultural resources and increased tourism will hopefully contribute to long-term cultural and economic sustainability.