

**“Our Common History: A Public Humanities Series
at the Tuskegee History Center”**

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Project Period

September 1, 2014 – June 15, 2015

Date Submitted

June 15, 2014

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PROJECT FOCUS: Auburn University ATP students and Tuskegee History Center staff and volunteers will plan and execute six public humanities programs that will increase the visibility of the Center as an asset for lifelong learning and destination for visitors interested in the history of Macon County.

PROJECT DETAILS:

Course Number, Name, and Instructor: CCEN 2000: Introduction to Community and Civic Engagement, Dr. Mark Wilson

Community Partner: Tuskegee History Center (formerly Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center).

Need: The Tuskegee History Center is a valuable community asset with a very small staff. Tuskegee and Macon County have very few opportunities for intergenerational learning and discussion on historical topics of interest. This series seeks to develop “friends of the Center” and contribute to the public understanding of Tuskegee and Macon County as a vibrant, culturally rich place to live.

Number and description of planned meetings with the community partner

Two project meetings with our community partner have already taken place to prepare for the series and project proposal. The first one included a 2013-14 ATP student (January 15 and June 10). An ad-hoc group of Center volunteers serves as a steering committee, and through their input we chose the speakers for the program series (Bob Pasquill, Linda Kenney Miller, Richard Bailey, Joe Caver, Robin Banks, and Dana Chandler).

August planning meeting: As soon as classes start and ATP students are selected, we will hold a meeting at the Center for the purpose of introducing students to the Center and to the planning committee.

The following program dates for the project, all of which will take place at the Center, are: September 9, September 24, October 8, October 21, November 6, November 14. Students will be required to attend at least three of these events; each student will serve as lead organizer for one of the events (details in Overview section below).

Following the November 14 lecture and before the ATP Symposium, we will schedule a meeting at the Center for the students to present their findings to the ad-hoc steering committee and other community members who are interested in the findings (see Overview below).

Overview of the project, including its central focus (10-12 sentences):

Building on the work of several years of collaboration through ATP projects, the purpose of this project is to document the effectiveness of a series of public humanities programs for 1) increasing visibility of the Tuskegee History as a community asset; 2) increasing educational opportunities for lifelong learning, which will increase Tuskegee/Macon County's reputation as a vibrant, intellectually-rich place to live.

Following the 2013 ATP project, one of the students assisted the project director and local volunteers in preparing an application to the Alabama Humanities Foundation for a mini-grant in the amount of \$1,500 to support the program, and matching funds are committed by the AU Center for the Arts & Humanities. The ad-hoc planning committee assisted with the choice of speakers and programs centered on the following topics: Tuskegee National Forest; the life of Dr. John Kenney; the black church in the 19th century; Tuskegee airmen; Character of Booker T. Washington; unique archival holdings at Tuskegee University on BTW.

ATP students will assist with publicity, social media, local arrangements, introductions of speakers, and evaluation of the programs. Each student will be required to attend three of the six events, and each student will serve as lead publicist/organizer/evaluator for one event.

The ad-hoc committee will design an evaluation for attendees to complete, and the results of the evaluations will be compiled in a report for the Center. The evaluation will include demographic information, publicity effectiveness, program effectiveness, and future program possibilities. After the conclusion of the series, the entire student team and ad-hoc committee will meet for an evaluation/reporting event that will take place between November 14 and November 28. The agenda will include a summary evaluation of each event; summary evaluation of the series as a whole; discussion of recommendations by the student team for future series; additional recommendations by members of ad-hoc committee.

Additionally, students will document the publicity efforts and create a binder that can be used by Center volunteers for future programs. A mailing list will be compiled that can be used for future Center communications.

Goals and Objectives: Please use a bulleted or numbered list.

- 1) Execution of six public humanities programs at the Tuskegee History Center.
- 2) Documentation of the programming process, especially publicity outlets, and network mapping of Tuskegee and Macon County
- 3) Development of an evaluation tool and analysis of each program evaluation.
- 4) Creation of a report/binder that will serve as a handbook for future, similar programs.

PROJECT OUTCOMES: In bulleted format, list all anticipated activities that meet the goals and objectives, including the poster, the conference presentation in Washington, D.C., and the required community presentation(s). Be sure that you have addressed all required goals, guidelines, and outcomes in the attached scope of work.

1. Poster describing our project to be presented at the ATP symposium.
2. 15- presentation at the ATP symposium.
3. Community presentation reporting out the results of the project and generating support for future projects.