San Jose State University

From the SelectedWorks of Peggy Cabrera

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Knowledge River: School of Information Resources and Library Science

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/peggy-cabrera/17/
PANELISTS

- Jana Bradley, Director and Professor, SIRLS
- Patricia Montiel Overall, Assistant Professor, SIRLS, KR1 Scholar
- Peggy Cabrera, Academic Librarian, San José State University, KR1 Scholar
- Adriana Rendon, Reference Librarian, Pima County Public Library, KR5 Scholar
- Aaron Valdivia, Young Adult Services Librarian, Pima County Public Library, KR5 Scholar, WE Search Chair
OVERVIEW

- Knowledge River: A Unique Approach
- Accomplishments of Knowledge River
- Impact of Knowledge River
- Community Outreach: WE Search
- Knowledge River Experiences
WHAT IS KNOWLEDGE RIVER?

- Master’s degree program at the School of Information Resources and Library Science

- Started as the Knowledge River Institute in 2001, funded by a grant from IMLS, with Patricia Tarín as the Knowledge River director


"a Master’s degree program tailored to the needs of Native Americans and Hispanics as learners and to the information needs of the communities they represent."

- IMLS 2001 grant abstract, Patricia Tarín
UNIQUE APPROACH

- Cohort-based
- Specialized academic and social support
- Culturally authentic classes
- Professional development activities, focused on leadership and preparation for the job market

"a retention program that takes into account financial, academic and social aspects of the library school experience...and prepares students for the real world of work and the job search process"

-IMLS 2003 grant abstract, Patricia Tarín
CULTURALLY AUTHENTIC CLASSES

- Knowledge River Foundation Course
  IRLS 550: Information Environments from Hispanic and Native American Perspectives

- Courses developed by national leaders
  - Issues in Culture and Technology, Richard Chabrán
  - Information Policy and Cultural Perspectives, Elizabeth Martínez
  - Issues in Indigenous Information Services, Marty de Montaño
COMMUNITY OUTREACH: WE Search (Wellness Education)

- Purpose: to extend student learning and benefits into the community
- Knowledge River mentors & high school students

"guiding the high school students through an extended (6-month) exploration of medical librarianship while providing actual health information service within the Tucson adolescent community”
- IMLS 2005 grant abstract, Patricia Tarín
WE SEARCH: Goals

- Curbing health disparities (emphasis on teen health issues and Latino and Native American health maladies)
- Creating a community of consumer health information advocates and fostering an interest in librarianship
METHODOLOGY: Four Module System

- Examining health disparities (the problem)
- Resources at our disposal (information)
- Outreach (information power)
- Permanent resource (reflect)
IMLS GRANT # 3, 2005 - 2008

- Included 3 cohorts: 4, 5, and 6

- Met its goals
  - Recruited 54 Hispanic and Native American students, exceeding goal by 4
  - Will graduate 45 students, meeting its target goal
  - WE Search, in its second year, extremely successful
  - Sustainability plan for basic program, through continued support of our long-term library partners
  - Impact and consultant evaluation as the basis for the future

- Provided for evaluation and assessment

- Prepare for new funding
2007-2008:
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

- Impact study
- UA Diversity Consultants: Focus Groups
- Expanded Steering Committee Review, input, vision, goals
- Financial Aid Advisory Committee: Steering Committee Membership
- KR Manager Selection Committee: Steering Committee membership
Cohort 7: 15 students; recruiting cohort 8

Foundational program
- selective recruiting;
- culturally authentic courses;
- cohort building;
- careful advisement;
- Development of leadership and job seeking skills;
- WE Search.

Plus
- Financial aid throughout 3-semester program: continuing partners, new partners, new IMLS grant, increased SIRLS contributions
- Multi-culturalism through the curriculum; extending research
- Plans to expand KR staff: KR director (faculty position), KR Manager (daily operations), KR assistants (grad students)
- Cultural competency throughout SIRLS community
LIBRARY PARTNERS

- **University of Arizona Libraries:**
  - Initial partner and continuing supporter
  - 8 assistantships in 2008-2009

- **Arizona Health Sciences Library:**
  - 2 Assistantships
  - WE Search advisors

- **Pima County Public Library:**
  - IGA to support five 2nd year students as Community Service Assistants
  - working at PCPL

- **Arizona State Library:**
  - 2 Cultural Community Assistantships,
  - working at libraries in the state
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Foundational program for 12 students for one year
  - Assistantships with library partners
  - SIRLS increased funding
  - IMLS funding extends to 14-16 in first year

- Second year funding
  - IMLS: WE Search
  - PCPL Community Service Assistantships
  - State Library Cultural Community Assistantship

- Fund-raising in the next 3 years for post-IMLS funding
HOW HAVE WE DONE?

- 78 graduates, May 2008 (54 Hispanic Latino; 24 Native American)

- 19 in the pipeline (not counting 12-15 new cohort 7 admits who start this summer)
  - Hispanic/Latino: 10
  - Native American: 9
GRADUATES

As of May, 2008, 78 students have graduated from SIRLS with the assistance of Knowledge River.
STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM (NOT COUNTING KR7)

- 19 students currently in program
  - Hispanic/Latino: 10
  - Native American: 9
COHORT 7: SUMMER/FALL 2008

- 15 students in cohort 7
- Assistantships
  - University of Arizona Main Library
  - AHSL
  - Pima County Public Library
- IRLS 550:
  Information Environments from Latino & Native American Perspectives
- Academic Advising for students
GRADUATE PLACEMENT

- Public Librarians
  - Branch Managers
  - Library of Congress
- Academic Librarians
  - Diné College Library
- Faculty
  - School of Information Resources & Library Science
- Book Editor
- Archivist
- School Librarians
- Technology Specialist
GRADUATE HONORS

- Testimony Before Congress
- Caldecott Awarded Committee
- Emerging Leaders
- Movers and Shakers
- Fellowships: NLM
IMPACT OF KNOWLEDGE RIVER:
School of Information Resources & Library Science

- Classroom Learning
- Student Leadership
- Culturally Competent Community
IMPACT OF KNOWLEDGE RIVER:
University of Arizona

- Diversity programs
- Involvement in the larger University of Arizona community
- Role-modeling for Latino & Native American students
IMPACT OF KNOWLEDGE RIVER:
City of Tucson & State of Arizona

- Community Service Assistantships
- Cultural Community Assistantships
- Local Organizations
- Local Libraries
IMPACT OF KNOWLEDGE RIVER: Nationwide

- National Libraries
- Professional Organizations
- National & Regional Conferences
- National Advocacy
- Projects & Collaborations
KNOWLEDGE RIVER EXPERIENCES

- Cohort Experience
- Cultural Competence
- Network
- Leadership
- What else?
QUESTIONS?
CONTACT KNOWLEDGE RIVER

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