

Michelle Iden

Activities Attended and Value of Conference

Traveled to Yellowstone National Park October 9-14, 2019 to conduct research to incorporate into our classes and to plan on what to do when bringing students in October 2020.

I traveled with Dr. Maria Isaza (Biology & Chemistry), Professor Samantha Gigliotti (Biology & Chemistry), Professor John Stoles (Communications) as part of the interdisciplinary Community and Civic Engagement Project Yellowstone group.

As part of our trip we spent a day with Dr. Shane Doyle, a Crow tribal member, who brought us to the Museum of the Beartooths, the Crow Reservation, and the site of the Battle of Little Big Horn. On the reservation he introduced us to members of the Tribal College there with the hopes that there will be a long term exchange and relationship between our schools. Throughout the day he also told us about his personal experiences as a member of the Crow Nation and he shared with his a lot of historical information about Yellowstone and its relationship with the tribal nations nearby.

In addition to these events we visited museums and various historical sites within the park, including Old Faithful, Fort Yellowstone, Mammoth Hot Springs, Artist Point, and Norris Geyser Basin. We also attended a lecture given by a member of the National Park Service on Grizzly Bears and their impact on the greater Yellowstone area.

We shared our experiences with the CCM community during the trip via an “Instagram takeover” of the CCM account. I was also able to see an immediate impact from the trip in the classroom upon returning. I discussed Dr. Doyle’s talk with my History of Minorities class the day I returned.

Yet the ability to share the information from the workshop will continue far beyond its immediate impact as the Project Yellowstone group has already planned events for the rest of this academic year and is currently working on a trip to bring students in October 2020.

I look forward to working with the Project Yellowstone group beyond this trip as we hope and plan to continue our interdisciplinary studies for the foreseeable future. This interdisciplinary approach helps bridge the gap between the Humanities and STEM, allowing students with varied interests and a variety of majors to become more engaged in their studies.