

Activities Attended and Value of Conference

Attended the Community College Humanities Association National Conference “Truth, Justice, and the Humanities Way” in Cleveland, OH 10/13-15/22.

On Friday, October 14 I presented “A Lasting Legacy?: The Challenges of Sustaining Interdisciplinary Extracurricular Programming” on CCM’s Legacy Project. I shared a history of the Legacy Project, including its development from a lecture series to a five-part program including: the Signature Series, Commemoration Committee, Ambassadors Program, Curriculum Connections, and the Summer Institute. An emphasis was placed on highlighting the intentional decision to incorporate more curricular connections in Legacy’s growth, noting that this helps increase student involvement and learning.

Time was left at the end of the presentation to encourage audience participation. A dialogue noting some of the challenges faced when planning extracurricular programming took place. Professors from throughout the country discussed things like how to get community members to attend more programming and how to encourage students to feel more of a stake in their community programming.

As a whole the conference helped provide information about CCHA itself and how to better incorporate the humanities into the overall community college experience. For example, I also attended a session that discussed the use of museum resources in the classroom. While parts of the discussion were specific to the Latin class taught by the professor presenting, the overall presentation incorporated information on how to engage students in dynamic course material in research projects from outside sources that could then be presented to the entire class. Another information session from an NEH representative showcased the resources available to community colleges for grant funding.

Equally important to the direct benefits to CCM via the knowledge gained from attending the conference, it also helped created a wider network of connections for CCM via the other community college faculty members who attended and I networked with.

In addition to this summary, I'll report my conference experience to the larger Legacy Project committee so that we can consider the feedback and topics of discussion as we plan future events.