Project Summary

Title: Kutztown University Frederick Douglass Institute Program Assessment

Project Director: Maria Sanelli and Louis Rodriquez, Department of History, msanelli@kutztown.edu

The key objective of the project was to create an overall process and develop a set of instruments to assess the programs and projects of the Frederick Douglass Institute at Kutztown University. The Frederick Douglass Institute is an organization that encourages development of equality and diversity among faculty, staff and students through scholarships, research, forums, exhibits, conferences and visiting scholars. In addition, the Institute encourages scholarship and facilitates the exchange of ideas around issues of cultural diversity and social equality among members of the campus community. Through the use of discussions, forums, conferences, fellowship programs, and exhibits, The Institute seeks to increase awareness of multicultural issues and promote racial harmony. The following objectives have informed our programming choices for the Frederick Douglass Institute.

- Promote scholarly research on multicultural topics among faculty
- Facilitate dialogue around issues of cultural diversity
- Contribute towards the enrichment of higher education with the development of multicultural programs and courses
- Encourage awareness of cultural diversity in the community
- Foster mutual understanding and mutual respect for diverse cultures
- Develop closer ties and collaboration among KU faculty and students with those in the PA State System of Higher Education

As part of this project, we created an overall assessment process tool for the FDI Director, and individual assessment tools for each Frederick Douglass Institute program. A protocol for assessing FDI programs and constructing assessment instruments was developed; and individual assessments instruments were created for the FDI Scholar-in-Residence program, Discussion Series, Walking In The Shoes Of program, FDI Living Learning Community, and Undergraduate Research Experience. (All materials are available from the Project Directors.) Beginning in fall 2010, the expectation is that all FDI programs will be evaluated with the newly created assessment instruments.