

TAPESTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

A Project Presented to the Faculty
of
California State University, Stanislaus

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
of Master of Social Work

By
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CERTIFICATION OF APPROVAL

TAPESTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

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Signed Certification of Approval page
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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to all of the individuals facing oppression, marginalization, discrimination, and human rights violations today, yesterday, and in the future. To those who are scared or concerned about the current state of our Nation and the world, may we gather together in solidarity to share ideas, find community, and take transformative action against the atrocities committed against human beings here in our community and worldwide.

This project is also dedicated to Kayla Moore, may you rest in power. The fight for justice surrounding the circumstances of your death will undoubtedly continue on through the powerful voice of your sister, Maria, and the community surrounding both her and your spirit.

Lastly, this project is dedicated to all of the ancestors who struggled, fought, and died for the privilege afforded to me and my cohort to be allowed the opportunity to obtain a graduate education.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are many people I must acknowledge for their support: my entire cohort, instructors, friends, and family; some of whom must be named.

First and foremost, to my husband, Scott Stouffer, for your endless support in this educational journey, I “thank you.” Late nights spent with me disseminating information and planning this symposium, taking our children out to eat or to the park so I could finish writing a paper, get in some reading, or just get some much-needed rest – without your support this accomplishment would not have been possible. As you reminded me when things got tough and I doubted my ability to see the end of this journey, “Babe, this is just a speed bump, and you know what we do with speed bumps? We drive right over them and just keep going.” Your love and support kept me on the long road to this goal that has been many years in the making. I am grateful for you, and will be forever grateful for your support through this journey.

To my children, Caeden, Kyleigh, and Kensington, you gave me a vision to be more, do more, and create a better world for all. I believe the three of you intently observing the struggle and accomplishments of my higher educational journey have imparted upon you the importance of working for a dream. The three of you inspire me every day. Thank you for supporting your mom and giving her BIG hugs and kisses when times were tough and when times were awesome. I love you!

To members of the Master of Social Work faculty who supported me in varying ways: Thank you, Valerie Leyva, for your endless support and unwavering

certainty in this project. Thank you, Paul Sivak, for your mentorship and imparting within me a passion to seek social justice for all. Thank you, John Garcia, for pushing my critical thinking abilities, and Jane Rousseau and Jennifer Johnson for always checking in and supporting my educational efforts.

Last, but not least, thank you to all the experiences and people, positive or negative, along my life journey who pushed me in the direction of my dreams. I am grateful for the love, the laughter, the tears, the heartache . . . I am grateful for it all. For without “it all” I would not stand where I stand today — an empowered, transformed woman ready to effect change.

고맙습니다 (Gomabseubnida, “Thank you” in Korean).

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ABSTRACT

This project focused on the development and execution of a half-day symposium at the CSU, Stanislaus campus focused on social justice. The objectives were accomplished through dialogue, communication, and collaboration with various community members and organizations, campus departments, and CSU, Stanislaus Master of Social Work students and faculty. In addition, the creation of a social media and campus-wide marketing campaign to advertise the event, and recording of the event for access to the information disseminated to the masses through the internet were actions taken to meet project objectives. There were emerging social justice discussions at the CSU, Stanislaus campus prior to the symposium, including the *Social Justice in the Central Valley Conference* sponsored by the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. However, there was a notable absence from the Master of Social Work department on the discussion of social justice at the conference or symposium level that sought to engage the entire campus community. This project brought the presence of the social work department to the discussion of social justice (the heritage of social work) to not only the campus-wide community, but to the local and global community as well.

CHAPTER I

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The purpose of this graduate project was to bring an event to the CSU, Stanislaus campus where social justice advocates and allies would speak to the local and global community about social justice efforts and ideas. The event was a half-day symposium held at the CSU, Stanislaus campus in the Spring 2017 semester. The title of the event was the *Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium*. The aim of the *Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium* was to create a space over a half-day on the CSU, Stanislaus campus where in-person talks given by social justice advocates and allies connected the interwoven pieces of social justice in action to foster change within our collective community.

The *Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium* sought to engage the collective community regarding current social justice issues in a meaningful way. Change leaders from various areas of the interwoven social justice tapestry spoke about social justice issues to the local and global community. The purpose of the symposium was multi-faceted: Participants would leave empowered with a passion to do more to further advance social justice efforts within their community. The dialogue surrounding the issues presented would spread throughout communities. Such dialogue would lead to action and true transformative change. Apathy would perish, while grounded optimism leading to true social justice would blossom.

The *Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium* sought to foster dialogue that leads to action that is socially just in the CSU, Stanislaus academic community, the surrounding Central Valley community, and the global community. Social justice can be achieved through a collaborative effort of economic, political and social analysis, dialogue, and action (CSU, Stanislaus MSW Department, 2013). In line with the CSU, Stanislaus Master of Social Work Program Mission Statement (CSU, Stanislaus MSW Department, 2013), this graduate project engaged in collaboration with the local CSU, Stanislaus academic community and the local Central Valley social work community to find social justice advocates and allies to present brief talks at the event that addressed conditions of oppression, privilege, and actions that have been taken to transform such conditions. Transformation of conditions that lead to oppression and privilege are social change actions that can contribute to the social work core value of social justice (National Association of Social Workers, 2008).

CHAPTER II

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The objectives of this project were to: (1) organize and execute a half-day symposium focused on social justice at the CSU, Stanislaus campus, (2) engage the campus and local community in the symposium, (3) increase awareness of social justice issues facing our community, and (4) cross barriers of educational privilege by making the event available on the internet. Achieving these objectives required approaching and collaborating with CSU, Stanislaus MSW students, the MSW department, the MSW Student Association (MSWSA), the Dean of the College of Education, Social Work, and Kinesiology, the Center for Public Policy Studies, and each of the four speakers. Funding was obtained through grant application writing and donation solicitations to campus clubs, campus organizations, the Center for Public Policy Studies, the MSW department, the MSWSA, Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, the National Association of Social Workers California Chapter Central Valley Unit, the Community Advisory Council, the CSU, Stanislaus Alumni Association, and personal community donors. Additional collaboration efforts included working with campus Reprographics, the Office of Information and Technology (OIT), Communications and Public Affairs, and the CSU, Stanislaus Associate Student, Inc. (ASI).

CHAPTER III

SIGNIFIGANCE OF THE PROJECT

Social justice is stated by MSW faculty to be at the core of the CSU, Stanislaus MSW program. While dissension exists regarding the definition of social justice, the working definition of social justice as defined by the CSU, Stanislaus Master of Social Work program (2013) that guided this project was defined as follows:

Social justice is a professional obligation of social workers to attempt to improve the quality of all people's lives by promoting and pursuing the redistribution of power and control of "social primary goods" (including liberty and opportunity, income and wealth, and the basis of self-respect) so that all members of society can become more fully human. Social justice is based on the belief that all individuals in society have a right to civil liberties, equal opportunity, fairness, and participation in political, economic, educational, and social realms. Social justice in action involves seeking social change by working with, organizing, and inspiring others to create solutions to social, economic, and political oppression and injustice. It has been said that the "principle of association" is the first law of democracy. If this is the case, then it stands to reason that social justice must be a fundamental goal of a democratic society. Social justice serves as the lens for operationalizing the principles by which association in daily life occurs.

Within the culture of the American patriarchal society, historically, information that can lead to personal and collective transformation and liberation has

been shared with and been made available only to elite, white, upper-class males through educational systems and intergenerational privilege (Macaulay, 2017). This project aimed to spread the social justice ideas presented through the talks not only to the local Central Valley community, but to the global community via the internet. The intent was for a diverse set of individuals to have access to the information presented, regardless of socio-economic, gender, sexual, educational, race, or cultural status.

The visibility of the MSW department on a campus and community wide level around the issue of social justice (social justice arguably being the heritage of social work) has been absent. Although social justice is a permeating theme throughout much of the MSW curriculum, the MSW department has not held a campus wide event in the form of a conference or symposium in recent years. The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences has hosted the *Social Justice in the Central Valley Conference* on campus. It was determined that the voice of those whose careers focused on social justice, i.e., social workers, be present on campus and in community conversation.

President Ellen Junn has placed a heavy focus on diversity since coming to CSU, Stanislaus on July 1, 2016. President Junn has recognized that the Central Valley has enormous potential for leadership that has largely been ignored (Stanislaus State Office of the President, n.d.). The Stanislaus State Campus Statement on Diversity (n.d.) directs that diversity shall be a multi-pronged approach: an approach that includes inclusivity of all through means of the campus supporting events, such

as this symposium, that brings staff, faculty, and students together to learn about diverse experiences that promote understanding as a means of honoring and embracing diversity.

This project is significant, because it embraces the goal of a truly diversity-embracing campus that allows for conversation, dialogue, presentation, and understanding of marginalized, oppressed, and discriminated groups. Additionally, the current state of the Nation under the Trump administration has allowed for mass oppression and human rights violations against many segments of the human population – individuals who identify as LGBTQA, immigrants, women, Muslim people, Latino people, Syrian people, refugees, Black people, people with a disability, Asian people, and the list continues to grow (Giacomo, 2016). White, upper-class conservative men who fall in line with this dogma seem to be the only group of individuals who are safe from Trump and his administration, for now. We are facing a fascist regime (Giacomo, 2016), and both Americans and the world are seeing the transformation. President Trump created a campaign of violence, and thus, anti-Semitismics feel more at ease voicing their beliefs because Trump has allowed them to feel they have a place for their hateful speech (Giacomo, 2016). Trump ignored requests to disavow supporters such as former Ku Klux Klan leader, David Duke, thereby allowing for increased conflict and suffering amongst the already oppressed and marginalized minorities (Giroux, 2017). *The Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium* allows for the voices of the oppressed, marginalized, discriminated, and

otherwise violated human beings to be heard, and for advocates and allies to come together to learn about transformative actions in the fight for social justice.

CHAPTER IV

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is the national organization that oversees social work degree programs and issues accreditation to such programs. In California, there are currently 41 CSWE social work degree accredited programs; 17 of these programs offer baccalaureate level degrees, and 24 offer master level degrees (Council on Social Work Education, 2017). Additionally, 41.67% of the masters' level social work degree programs in California indicate that they offer a clinical or direct practice concentration (Council on Social Work Education, 2017), while social justice is notably not listed as a concentration option.

Micro and Macro Foci Dissension

The micro clinical concentration side of social work pushes towards evidence-based practice (EBP) in the social work field, which potentially places privilege of knowledge over core social work values (Furman, 2009). When heavy emphasis is placed on EBP in the learning environment, which is patterned after the medical model, outcomes over social work values, e.g., client self-determination, may be an intended or unintended outcome (Furman, 2009). Overlooking any social work values, particularly social justice, in the learning environment and practice of social work is detrimental to the profession.

Micro and macro practice foci and concentrations in schools of social work have caused division amongst both faculty and students. This divide directs that one

group of social work students focuses on individuals (micro), while the other focuses on politics and community organizing (macro) (Kam, 2014). To bring the social work profession back to its social justice roots, curriculum should focus on what social justice is, as well as what it should be in order to respond to current political and social needs (Bernstein, 1995).

Implementing a Social Justice Curriculum

Reeser and Leighninger (1990) argue that a social justice specialization serves to be at the core of the graduate social work curriculum. The emphasis of social justice in the field of social work has fluctuated between rhetoric and reality throughout the history of the profession, but a commitment to equal rights and equitable distribution amongst all human beings has been a foundational commitment of the social work profession (Reeser & Leighninger, 1990). For example, Reeser and Leighninger (1990) outline the process of creating and proposing a social justice concentration curriculum for the Western Michigan University Master of Social Work program. To work on the proposal and implement mandates, a Social Justice Task Force was organized. This Task Force used several strategies. First, the Task Force met with local advocacy agencies that had social justice orientations to establish relationships, gain support, and engage in collaborative dialogue. Second, the Task Force surveyed other social justice curricula from other schools of social work; the results gave credence to a social justice curriculum. Third, the Task Force held a social justice conference. Attendees included Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work students from Western Michigan University and other regional

universities. Several objectives were to be met through the conference: (a) raise consciousness in the university and surrounding community regarding social justice issues including, but not limited to, discrimination, homelessness, and unemployment; (b) see if there was regional interest in a social justice concentration curriculum; and (c) gain legitimacy amongst university faculty and administration for a social justice curriculum within the Western Michigan University Master of Social Work program. The social justice conference aided in creating amplified credibility to the fight for a social justice curriculum being brought to the university (Reeser & Leighninger, 1990).

Social Justice in the Digital Age

An important part of this project included making the content of the symposium available to the masses via the internet. In the planning stages, the *Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium* organizer approached the organizers of the Technology, Education, and Design (TED) organization and proposed a University Conference at CSU, Stanislaus. TED was chosen because of its expertise in spreading ideas throughout the global community. The TED organizers denied the request for approval of a conference, and the information was presented in a symposium format. Creating a space that emulates the TED format that is then made available on the internet has been shown to be an effective way to deliver a message. A dynamic delivery, the use of humor, personal connections, and visual aids are all impactful ways of engaging an audience (Kedrowicz & Taylor, 2016). Rather than having a passive audience, viewers are engaged, and there are higher levels of

information retention (Kedrowicz & Taylor, 2016). In this digital age, sharing the message of social justice through the internet is the new norm. The information obtained from watching TED like videos can transformatively change future behavior (Kedrowicz & Taylor, 2016).

Organizing, and the ultimate execution of a social justice conference, as outlined by Reeser and Leighninger (1990), assisted with the legitimacy of a social justice curriculum at Western Michigan University. It can be concluded that the organizing and execution of the *Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium*, in addition to the active engagement of the local community in the symposium, helped to legitimize the current social justice curriculum in the CSU, Stanislaus MSW program, and provided resources to promote a stronger social justice curriculum, and possibly a social justice concentration. Additionally, this symposium may assist with alleviating the dissension within MSW programs between micro or macro foci, particularly the CSU, Stanislaus MSW program, because both micro and macro issues were addressed within the content of the symposium.

Since the symposium was held on a university campus, it was a concern that only those individuals afforded educational privilege would be able to access the content. The symposium organizer, in the spirit of social justice, felt that all people should have access the content whether or not educational privilege was afforded to them. The symposium organizer felt that recording and broadcasting the symposium online would assist MSW faculty with the learning process in the classroom. Additionally, as outlined by Kedrowicz and Taylor (2016) the dynamic delivery of

the speakers were effective in increasing attendees awareness of social justice issues facing our community.

CHAPTER V

METHODOLOGY

In the initial planning stages of this graduate project, the symposium was modeled after the TED format. The idea was to provide a TEDx University Conference focused on social justice. A TEDx University event application was completed and submitted to the selection committee. To complete the application, the symposium organizer had to become familiar with the TEDx University rules and regulations, work collaboratively with the Dean of the College of Education, Kinesiology, and Social Work, and the CSU, Stanislaus Communications department. The TEDx application was denied. The reason for the denial was cited as social justice was not multidisciplinary enough for their university format. The TED platform was initially selected because it allowed for powerful, focused, short 18-minute talks (the length of the average human attention span) on “idea’s worth spreading” (TED Our Organization, n.d.). Although the American patriarchal society construct that we live in has historically, and still predominantly, affords knowledge and educational power and privilege to white, upper-class men (Macaulay, 2017), the TED platform allows for access to content that is presented to the masses via the internet, regardless of educational privilege (Kedrowicz & Taylor, 2016). Consistent with social work values, social workers seek to empower others in obtaining knowledge that can contribute to their liberation (National Association of Social Workers, 2008). The mass distribution through technology allows those without the

means to attend a conference or event to access this transformative knowledge. When the TEDx application was denied, the symposium organizer decided that the event would occur with the same spirit, ideals, and purpose, although without the TEDx affiliation.

Choosing Speakers

This project sought speakers from the local community who were identified as social justice advocates, allies, and change makers. Transformation, liberation, and empowerment does not come from the theorization of social justice, but from action (Friere, 1996). Thus, social justice is not something to be studied behind a desk, but something to be acted upon in communities. Rather than seek scholars who solely study social justice, the symposium focused on finding individuals who are engaged in social justice action and were willing to speak to attendees about how they could engage in action in their communities, as well.

Speak Out, a non-profit organization based out of Oakland, California, dedicated to educating, inspiring, and empowering social justice activists was contacted in the initial stages of speaker selection (Speak Out Mission and Programs, n.d.). The symposium organizer sent an inquiry through the website in November 2016. The inquiry went unanswered until a December 2016 follow up call was placed. Jean Caiani, the Director of the organization, stated that she was inundated with requests due to the Presidential election. Jean and the symposium organizer spoke at length about the symposium's vision, budget, and possible speakers who were available through her organization. Speakers initially considered for the

symposium included Fania Davis, Angela Davis, Noam Chomsky, Rinku Sen, and Dolores Huerta. Jean provided information on speaker fees and where speakers are located regionally, and she suggested different speakers who either lived in California or would be in California at the time of the symposium which would minimize or eliminate travel fees. Jean informed the symposium organizer that Noam Chomsky rarely travels past the Mississippi River for speaking engagements, and that the other speakers initially selected had fees ranging from \$6,000 - \$10,000, far outside the budgetary scope of this project.

Jean made other suggestions for speakers which included Bill Shannon, a comedian who focuses on disability rights; Anthony Ocampo, a scholar and writer who focuses on immigration, race and ethnicity, and gender and sexuality; and Marc Bamuthi Joseph, a spoken word performer and environmental justice advocate (*Speak Out Find a Speaker*, n.d.). Jean was familiar with CSU, Stanislaus and Dr. James Tuedio, Dean of College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, who hosts the *Social Justice in the Central Valley Conference* annually in the Fall semester. Based on her knowledge of the university, Jean helped to eliminate speakers who had spoken at the university within the past year, and who were booked to speak at the university in the future. The speakers Jean suggested had negotiable fees that ranged from \$2,500 - \$4,000. The symposium organizer wrote back to Jean in January 2017 to thank her for her time and attention and informed her that the symposium would not be using any of the Speak Out speakers. Although Bill Shannon, Anthony Ocampo, and Marc Bamuthi Joseph would have brought a message of social justice in

a professional and poised manner, a lack of funding and a symposium focusing on the local community were reasons for not selecting the Speak Out speakers. Speak Out was a useful resource, however, and an e-mail was sent to Lucy Louis, administrative assistant to the MSW department to send to all MSW faculty, that detailed the Speak Out organization as a potential resource for social justice speakers for future events.

The symposium organizer reached out to other Master of Social Work (MSW) students, MSW faculty, and conducted her own research for nearly a year to find potential speakers in the local community. Once a list of potential speakers was compiled, they were vetted using online tools, such as Google, social media, and YouTube searches. After the vetting process was complete, some potential speakers were eliminated because they either: 1) required compensation outside the financial capacity of this project, or, 2) they did not meet the criteria of being a social justice advocate, ally, or changemaker. Those who passed this process were then sent a solicitation email inviting them to speak at the symposium. Four speakers responded: John Black, Maria Moore, Melanie Berru, and Imerald Brown. Each of the four speakers presented their material at the half-day symposium.

Promoting the Event

To engage the campus and local community in the symposium, I implemented a social media and on-campus marketing campaign. A Facebook page for the symposium was created on January 8, 2017 and shared with MSW students, faculty, and community members (Tapestry of Social Justice, 2017, January 8). Five weeks before the event, biographies of the speakers were released on the Facebook page on

a weekly basis, one biography per week (see Appendices A – D). The event was shared with other social justice minded Facebook pages, including, but not limited to, the CSU, Stanislaus Hunger Network Club, Stanislaus Resistance, and the NASW Central Valley and Fresno units. On campus, flyers (see Appendix E) were distributed to the following on campus departments: Master of Social Work, Criminal Justice, Communication Studies, Sociology, Gerontology, and Gender Studies, Anthropology, Geography, and Ethnic Studies. Flyers were also distributed to the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, the College of Kinesiology, Education, and Social Work, and the on-campus newspaper, The Signal. Posters (see Appendices F and G) were displayed throughout campus three weeks before the event.

Obtaining Funding

To meet the financial needs of the project, the symposium organizer reached out to the MSWSA, the Master of Social Work department, the College of Kinesiology, Education and Social Work, and the CSU, Stanislaus Center for Public Policy Studies for in-kind and monetary donations. In order to disseminate the presented content on the internet, RC&J Studios recorded the event and made it available on the Tapestry of Social Justice YouTube channel (2017, May 5). The event will also be made available on the MSW department webpage. Funding for RC&J Studios was secured through a Student Engagement in Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity (SERSCA) mini-grant of \$300. Collaboration with the Master of Social Work Student Associations (MSWSA) was requested and obtained by the

symposium organizer for assistance with day-of-event volunteer recruitment, although this resource was never utilized due to the efforts of MSW students volunteers who assisted with the event. A meeting requesting support and advisement was held with the event organizer and CSU, Stanislaus' Dean of the College of Education, Kinesiology and Social Work, Dr. Oddmund Myhre, who indicated his support for the event, but did not contribute financially to the event.

The CSU, Stanislaus MSW Department and the CSU, Stanislaus Center for Public Policy Studies (CPPS) responded promptly to the symposium organizer's request for in-kind donations after the submission of a proposed budget. The CSU, Stanislaus MSW Department and CSU, Stanislaus CPPS each agreed to in-kind donations of \$500. Still to be funded was a stipend for speaker Melanie Berru and mileage reimbursement for speaker, Maria Moore. The symposium organizer collaborated with MSW students and faculty about possible ways to secure this funding. Various fundraising endeavors were considered, but ultimately two separate community donors covered the funding (see Appendix H).

To thank all of those who assisted with this project, a lunch was held before the symposium (see Appendix I). Sponsors, volunteers, and speakers engaged in both casual and social justice focused conversation, as well as networking with others in their community. The lunch was a remarkable success, and it served as a way for the speakers to relax and get comfortable before the event.

Social justice focused pieces of artwork were sought to bring a tangible visual element to the symposium. I reached out to the Stanislaus Family Justice Center to

engage them in the event by having youth they serve create pieces of art that interpreted their meaning of social justice. These pieces of art were then going to be sewn together to create a tapestry to display at the symposium. The organization was initially on board, but due to a lack of funding for this project the tapestry was not produced.

On the day of the event, John Black brought pieces of art from the Peer Recovery Art Project, Maria Moore brought a painting of her slain sister, Kayla Moore, and Melanie Berru invited social justice artist, Daniel Mejia to display his artwork paying homage to indigenous people. The artwork was well received and enjoyed by attendees.

Organizing this symposium required a great deal of collaboration, communication, and focus. After having been focused on a TEDx University Conference for six months and then receiving a denial presented a difficult re-focusing process for the symposium organizer. However, the denial allowed the symposium organizer to engage more deeply with her local community and produce a more locally focused social justice event. Working with each of the four speakers, coordinating with campus departments, collaborating with students, faculty, and the local community was a highly rewarding process. Obtaining funding, possibly the most taxing part of the project, pushed the symposium organizer to pool her resources and find additional resources. The entire process pushed the symposium organizer outside of her comfort zone, arguably a key piece of the graduate project process.

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSIONS

This project met its objectives to: (1) organize and execute a half-day symposium focused on social justice at the CSU, Stanislaus campus, (2) engage the campus and local community in the symposium, (3) increase awareness of social justice issues facing our community, and (4) cross barriers of educational privilege by making the event available on the internet.

To meet the first objective, organize and execute a half-day symposium focused on social justice at the CSU, Stanislaus campus, it was necessary to work closely with the MSW department, the Center for Public Policy Studies, MSW students and faculty, and reach out to community organizations. Of vital importance was the symposium organizer's collaborative work with each of the four speakers, which included in-person meetings, communication via telephone and e-mail, and providing collaborative, empowering guidance.

Objective two, engage the campus and local community in the symposium, was done through a social media and on-campus advertising campaign. A Facebook page for the symposium was created on January 8, 2017 and shared with MSW students, faculty, and community members (Tapestry of Social Justice, 2016, January 8). The event was shared with other social justice minded Facebook pages. On campus, flyers were distributed to various departments, and posters were displayed

throughout campus. E-mail invitations were sent to MSW faculty, President Ellen Junn, NASW Central Valley Unit leadership, Dean Tuedio, and Dean Myhre.

Objective three, increase awareness of social justice issues facing our community, was met. Approximately 60 attendees were present at the symposium at various points throughout the two-and-a-half-hour time frame. An event evaluation (see Appendix J) for the symposium was completed by 47 attendees. The evaluation measured the event's success in increasing attendees' awareness of social justice issues. A rating of five indicated the attendee strongly agreed that the symposium increased the attendee's awareness of social justice issues, while a one indicated the attendee did not agree that the symposium increased their awareness of social justice issues. Thirty attendees marked five, 12 attendees marked four, three attendees marked three, and one attendee marked one. Therefore, 89.3% of attendees strongly agreed that the symposium increased their awareness of social justice issues. All of the event evaluations indicated that the attendees would recommend this symposium to others.

Objective four, cross barriers of educational privilege by making the event available on the internet, was accomplished through a contract with RC&J Studios. Funding for filming was obtained through a SERSCA mini-grant. The symposium video content will be hosted on the MSW department webpage and is on the Tapestry of Social Justice YouTube Channel (2017, May 5).

The weaknesses of this project included misinformation and logistical barriers by campus departments. The OIT department was utilized for rental of microphones.

During the symposium organizer's first contact with them she was told that students could check out microphones, so a reservation was made. However, the OIT representative she spoke with put the reservation under the wrong date and name. A call was made weeks later to make an amended reservation for the symposium and the practice run, and conflicting information that students could not rent out microphones was provided. Instead, a OIT supervisor indicated their policy mandates that only faculty may reserve, pick up, and drop off microphones. The symposium organizer had to coordinate with the MSW department the reservation, pick up, and drop off of the microphones. This policy created extra work for both the symposium organizer and the faculty member assisting. Additionally, there was confusion on the day of the event and the microphones were not retrieved by the designated faculty member, so another faculty member had to be located to get the microphones from the OIT department.

Financial barriers existed in the planning and execution of this project. The MSW department, a financial sponsor of the symposium, indicated through e-mail that they would most likely be able to help with all or most of the costs associated with the event, but that a proposed budget was needed. After the budget was submitted there was a delay in receiving approval. When approval was received, the MSW department agreed to cover approximately one-third of the projected cost of the event. Because of the previous e-mail indicating that either all or most of the costs would probably be covered by the MSW department, the request for a financial contribution to the symposium to Dean Myhre went unheard after he consulted the

department and was told the same thing. The CPPS had already agreed to covering one-third of the costs as well. Some elements of the symposium, such as the physical tapestry for the event had to be eliminated, and additional funding to cover speaker associated costs had to be found. In addition, having to honor the contract between the university and Chartwells caused a financial burden. Using a different caterer, or being able to bring in food from the outside could have cut costs drastically. When planning an event such as this, fiscal costs can be a barrier to event execution.

Support from some faculty of the MSW department was steadfast, while others were noticeably absent. Support for the symposium was requested early on, and disappointingly some students had to make a decision to miss class to attend the event. This may have been detrimental to their grade, but their feedback stated that the event was powerful, transformative, and an educational experience none the less. When describing what one MSW student attendee liked most about the symposium, they stated, “This was a beautiful reminder that we are an accessory in people’s lives. We are here to help people improve their lives, not to enforce anything. Great speakers that represent social justice!” Another MSW student attendee reported, “The speakers spoke to me; they all spoke to my soul. Thank you so much – I really needed to hear this!”

Lastly, creating an event such as this primarily as a solo student is a great undertaking. During an MSW student event in December 2016, the symposium organizer reached out to first-year MSW students in hopes of recruiting a first-year MSW student to assist with the project. The group of students was told that the

symposium is a project that could be an annual event for the MSW department, and that the benefits of assisting would be that they could learn from this year's process in order to improve the process for the following year's symposium, and that they would be better prepared to execute the event next year by being a part of the process this year. One first-year student expressed interest, and the symposium organizer and her met over winter break to discuss the project's vision, goals, and tasks to be completed. The student was enthusiastic and agreed to assist. However, due to competing educational and personal obligations, the student was unable to fulfill her commitment. It is recommended that if this symposium is to be re-created in the future, at least two students work collaboratively to organize the event. If this symposium, or another social justice focused symposium or conference is not taken on as a graduate project by students, it is further recommended that the MSW department support a collaborative student-faculty social justice focused symposium or conference annually to further legitimize the social justice curriculum of the MSW department (Reeser & Leighninger, 1990) for both the department and University's benefit. Feedback received from event evaluations indicated that some individuals would have wanted a break, or a longer symposium with more speakers. Every event evaluation indicated that they would recommend this event to others, and so it is in the best interest of the MSW department and their stated dedication to social justice to continue on with promoting social justice in this type of forum.

In conclusion, the strength of this project was in bringing a much needed transformative social justice event to campus that focused on social justice speakers

who brought their own unique experiences to the forum; experiences that students reported resonated with them on a personal level. First year MSW students reported that they gained a better understanding of social justice and how it permeates throughout the experiences of all human beings, and that they, too, walked away feeling that they could create something similar, something powerful. The overall success in coordination was a collaborative effort amongst dedicated volunteers. Maria Moore was able to gain great support, as many individuals signed up to be a part of the efforts to fight for justice for her sister, Kayla Moore. As Saleebey (1990) states, social justice is the fundamental ontological business of social work. This project served the profession of social work and the fight for social justice.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

FACEBOOK SPEAKER BIO: IMERALD BROWN

Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium
OSJ Boulevard Center
 Turlock, California
 APRIL 17

Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium
 @tapestryofsocialjustice

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Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium
 March 20 · 🌐

Introducing Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium speaker, Imerald Brown...

Imerald Brown is a fearless and edgy Hip Hop artist and writer from Berkeley, California. Imerald Brown's music and writings carry messages of empowerment and resilience. Imerald Brown has released various projects over time including Mental Mayhem, Collision Imprint, and most recently Imerald Brown released Brainstorm along with visuals for tracks such as "Black & Brilliant" asking listeners to define... [See More](#)

476 people reached **Boost Post**

Like
 Comment
 Share
 ...

Kevin KeenVision Utley, Jane Rousseau and 5 others

APPENDIX B

FACEBOOK SPEAKER BIO: MELANIE BERRU



The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook post from the 'Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium' page. The post, dated March 27, introduces speaker Melanie Berru, MA. The bio text states that she is the first, full-time, tenure-track, Xicana Sociology Professor at Modesto Junior College since its inception in 1921. She is currently a 2016-2017 equity leader in the Modesto Junior College Embedding Equity Faculty Institute, working toward ending equity gaps for student success on campus. The bio concludes with 'Ms. Berru has dedicated her entire...' followed by a 'See More' link. Below the text is a portrait of Melanie Berru, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a black blazer and a colorful necklace, smiling against a background of a tree trunk. The post has 354 people reached and 1 share. The left sidebar shows the page name, handle, and navigation menu.

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@tapestryofsocialjustice

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Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium
March 27 · 🌐

The Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium is honored to introduce speaker, Melanie Berru, MA...

Ms. Melanie Berru holds the position of the first, full-time, tenure-track, Xicana Sociology Professor at Modesto Junior College since its inception in 1921. Ms. Berru is currently a 2016-2017 equity leader in the Modesto Junior College Embedding Equity Faculty Institute where she is working toward ending equity gaps for student success on campus. Ms. Berru has dedicated her entire... [See More](#)

354 people reached **Boost Post**

Like Comment Share

♥️ Maria C. Barron-Nevarez, Jeanette Robertson and 3 others Chronological

1 share

APPENDIX C

FACEBOOK SPEAKER BIO: JOHN BLACK



Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium
OSU Bastian Campus
Turlock, California
APRIL 17

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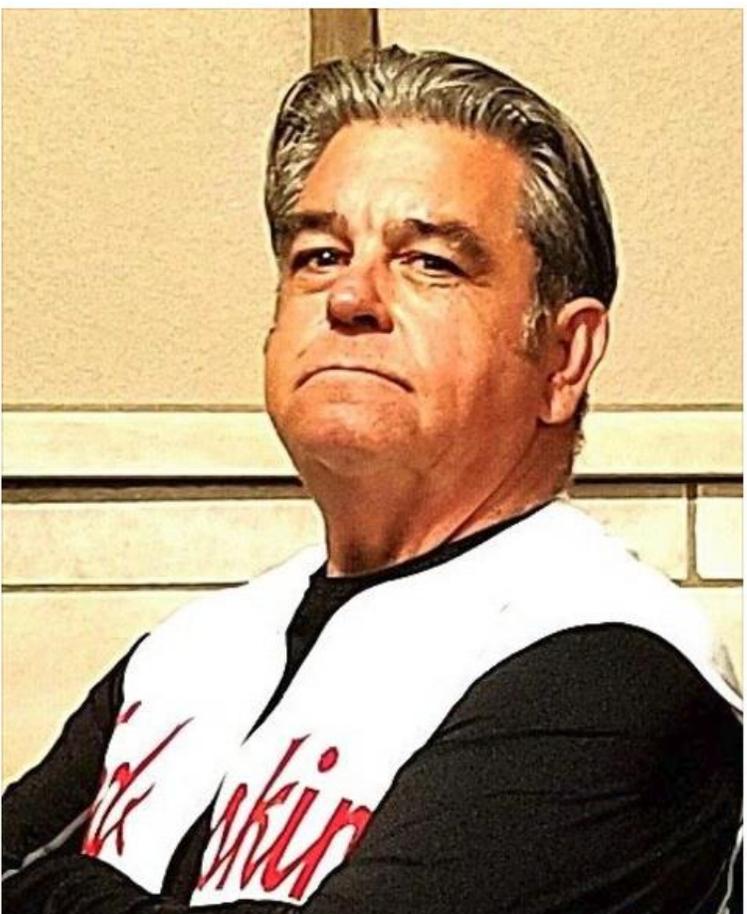
Manage Promotions

Liked Following Share ...

Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium
April 4 · 🌐

The Tapestry of Social Justice is excited to introduce speaker, John JB Black...

John Black is a native Californian who doesn't care for labels. He spent years traveling around the country working carnivals before schizophrenia dug its hooks into him. John spent 10 years on the streets of Modesto, but had his mother and father's home to reside in. He began his recovery as a volunteer at a community alcohol treatment drop-in center. From that experience, John learned how imp... [See More](#)



APPENDIX D

FACEBOOK SPEAKER BIO: MARIA MOORE



The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook profile for the "Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium". The profile picture is a colorful, abstract graphic with red, orange, and black patterns. The cover photo is a black and white graphic with the text "Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium" and "APRIL 17" in a stylized font. The profile name is "Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium" with the handle "@tapestryofsocialjustice". The page is set to "Public" and shows a post from April 9. The post text reads: "The Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium is privileged to introduce speaker, Maria Moore... Maria Moore was born and raised in Berkeley, California with sister Kayla and their Father. Maria's sister, Kayla Moore, a black, transgender, mentally disabled woman, was killed by Berkeley Police when friends called for a mental health evaluation. Maria and her family have filed a wrongful death claim against the city, which is now in the hands of the Federal court system. Maria ha... See More". Below the text is a photograph of Maria Moore, a young woman with dark hair, smiling, wearing a black jacket over a pink and green floral top.

Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium
@tapestryofsocialjustice

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Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium
April 9 · 🌐

The Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium is privileged to introduce speaker, Maria Moore...

Maria Moore was born and raised in Berkeley, California with sister Kayla and their Father. Maria's sister, Kayla Moore, a black, transgender, mentally disabled woman, was killed by Berkeley Police when friends called for a mental health evaluation. Maria and her family have filed a wrongful death claim against the city, which is now in the hands of the Federal court system. Maria ha... [See More](#)



APPENDIX E

TAPESTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE 8.5" X 11" FLYER



Seating limited to 100 people

*Tapestry of Social Justice
Symposium*

APRIL 17 2017

1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in MSR 130

Connecting the interwoven pieces of social justice in action
to foster change within our collective community.


 Stanislaus State
 One University Circle
 Turlock, CA
Embracing social justice. Advancing the region

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/tapestryofsocialjustice/

Open to the campus & surrounding Central Valley community
 Courtesy parking available in Parking Lot 2

APPENDIX F

TAPESTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE 8.5" X 14" POSTER

Tapestry of Social Justice
Symposium

APRIL 17 2017



John Black Emerald Brown Maria Moore Melanie Berru

1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in MSR 130
Connecting the interwoven pieces of social justice in action to foster change within our collective community.
100 seats available
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/tapestryofsocialjustice

Open to the campus & surrounding Central Valley community
Courtesy parking available in Lot 2



Stanislaus State
Embracing social justice. Advancing the region



APPENDIX G

TAPESTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE 18" X 24" POSTER



Seating limited to 100 people

*Tapestry of Social Justice
Symposium*

APRIL 17 2017

1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in MSR 130

Connecting the interwoven pieces of social justice in action
to foster change within our collective community.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/tapestryofsocialjustice

 CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
Stanislaus
Master of Social Work Department
Center for Public Policy Studies

Open to the campus & surrounding Central Valley community
Courtesy parking available in Parking Lot 2
Organized by **Jessica Stouffer**
MSW Candidate 2017
Embracing social justice. Advancing the region

APPENDIX H

TAPESTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE FINAL EXPENSE BUDGET

Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium April 17, 2017			
Final Expense Budget			
EXPENSES	Vendor	Expense	Cost Fulfilled By
Printing/Advertisement			
Event Evaluation - 8.5 x11 B&W 1-sided (100)	CSUS Reprographics		MSW Dept.
Event Program - 8.5 x11 Color 2-sided (100)	CSUS Reprographics		MSW Dept.
Poster Small - 8.5 x 14 Legal Color 28 lb Cardstock (10)	CSUS Reprographics		MSW Dept.
Poster A-Frame - 24 x 36 Color (7)	CSUS Reprographics		MSW Dept.
	Total Printing Costs:	\$175.33	
Canva Subscription (3 months)	Canva.com	\$38.85	Event Organizer, Jessica Stouffer
A-Frame Poster Holder Rental (3 x 8 days)	CSUS ASI	\$48.00	MSW Dept.
	TOTAL PRINTING/ADVERTISEMENT:	\$262.18	
Facilities			
Room Set-Up	CSUS Facilities	\$130.00	MSW Dept.
Food & Beverage			
<u>For Speakers, Volunteers & Staff - Lunch</u>			
Artisan Three Sandwich Board for 25 people	Chartwells		CPPS
Seasonal Fresh Fruit Display for 20 people	Chartwells		CPPS
	Total Lunch:	\$407.50	
<u>For Attendees - Snack</u>			
Fruit Infused Water by the Gallon (5 gal)	Chartwells		CPPS
Assorted Cookies (6 doz)	Chartwells		CPPS
	Total Snack:	\$118.07	
	TOTAL FOOD & BEVERAGE:	\$525.57	
Speaker Fee's			
Mileage Reimbursement - Maria Moore (179.4 miles round-trip @ 53.5 cents per mile)		\$95.98	Private Donation
Speaker Fee - Melanie Berru, MA		\$100.00	Personal Donation - Luis Molina
Filming of Event			
RC&J Studios		\$300	SERSCA Mini-Grant
	TOTAL:	\$1,413.73	

APPENDIX I

TAPESTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM LUNCH INVITATION



You're Invited to the
Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium Lunch

APRIL 17 2017
12:00 p.m. in MSR 130C
CSU Stanislaus
One University Circle, Turlock, CA

Please R.S.V.P. no later than
Wednesday, April 12, 2017
R.S.V.P. through this link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SSJ2QBD>



This lunch was made possible by a generous donation from the
California State University, Stanislaus Center for Public Policy Studies

APPENDIX J

TAPESTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM EVENT EVALUATION

Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium Event Evaluation

Thank you for completing this evaluation. Your comments are greatly appreciated and will be taken into account for symposium impact and possible future symposium planning.

1. Please circle your affiliation:

MSW Student MSW Faculty CSU Stanislaus Student Other College Student Other: _____

2. How did you hear about the Tapestry of Social Justice Symposium? Please circle all that apply:

Facebook Friend/Classmate Professor Flyer Other: _____

3. Overall, how much did the symposium increase your awareness of social justice issues?

(Not at all) 1 2 3 4 5 *(Very much)*

Comments:

4. How strongly do you believe the symposium increased your ability to address social justice in your work, practice, or everyday life?

(Strongly disagree) 1 2 3 4 5 *(Strongly agree)*

Comments:

Would you recommend this event to others? Yes, absolutely!

Maybe

Definitely not

What did you like most about the symposium?

What would you change or improve about the symposium?

Additional comments:

Thank you for your time and participation!