Title of Project: Contributing to a more Inclusive Campus that welcomes different voices and viewpoints through the Lecture of Kathy Buckley

Grant Category: Campus Climate

Project Lead: James Ochwa-Echel, Ph.D.

Affiliated Department: Office of Academic Affairs

Campus Contact: Email: james.ochwa-echel@mail.ewu.edu
Telephone: 359-6301
Mailing Address: 207 Showalter Hall

Project Partners/Co-Partners:

Robert A. Campbell
Disability Support Services
Email: rcampbell@mail.ewu.edu
Telephone: 359-2293
Mailing Address: 124 Tawanka Hall

Kevin Hills
Disability Support Services
Email: khills@mail.ewu.edu
Telephone: 359-4706
Mailing Address: 124 Tawanka Hall

Stephanie Mellor
Center for Disability Studies and Universal Access
Email: accessall@mail.ewu.edu
Telephone: 359-4545
Mailing Address: 233 Senior Hall
Project Summary

Funding requested for this project is meant to contribute to a more inclusive campus that welcomes different voices and viewpoints through the lecture of Ms. Kathy Buckley. Billed as “America’s first hearing impaired comedienne,” Ms. Buckley has been hearing impaired since birth. As a child, she was misdiagnosed and labeled as retarded. She was sexually abused and seriously contemplated suicide throughout her teens. She was run over by a jeep while sunbathing on a beach. The accident resulted in broken bones and intermittent paralysis in her legs. After five years of recovery, she could walk again, and then she discovered she had ovarian cancer.

Despite facing all the difficult obstacles one can imagine in life, she met those challenges with dignity, courage and laughter. Today Ms. Buckley is a force like no other. She is a gifted comedienne, award winning actress, accomplished author, and a renowned inspirational speaker. She demonstrates that having a disability is not a hindrance to one’s potential. The message she presents is that each member of a community is a valuable asset to that community regardless of background and experiences. The message resonates with the diversity initiative at Eastern Washington University, as it promotes awareness and understanding between various campus groups. It will also spark discussion in a positive and productive way by introducing the campus community to a person who has faced disability and discrimination and overcome those barriers to inspire others.

Ms. Kathy Buckley will present her lecture in April and meet with students, faculty and staff.
Detailed Proposal

Statement of the Issue or Problem:
According to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, society has historically tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities, and despite some improvements, such forms of discrimination against individuals with disabilities continue to be a serious and pervasive social problem. Discrimination against individuals with disabilities persists in such critical areas as employment, housing, public accommodations, education, transportation, communication, recreation, institutionalization, health services, voting and access to public services.

Eastern Washington University has about 300 students with visual, hearing, learning and mobility disabilities. EWU policies and procedures recognize the important place individuals with disabilities have in the EWU community. This recognition is contained in the EWU policies on disability in the Human Rights Section of the EWU governance system which states:

   600-080-020 (2). Policy. Persons with disabilities are an integral part of the Eastern Washington University community, and the provision of equal access to programs, services and activities through reasonable accommodation is a campus wide responsibility and commitment. In accord with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; the Washington State Law Against Discrimination, RCW 49.60; and Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act which prohibits discrimination individuals on the basis of disability, Eastern Washington University shall provide reasonable accommodation for disabled people and is committed to ensuring that discrimination against the disabled does not occur.

Despite EWU’s recognition of the important role individuals with disabilities play within our campus community, they continue to face certain elements of discrimination in the area of accommodation. While many at EWU have heard anecdotes of struggles our students or faculty with disability face, there have been very few organized studies or forums for discussion. Thus, this project will spark discussion in a positive and productive way by introducing the campus community to a person who has faced disability and discrimination and overcome those barriers to inspire others.

Objective:
This project seeks to raise awareness, provide a forum for discussion about disability, give students of all abilities the tools and resources to identify gaps in perception or service and make positive changes, and provide a hands-on educational experience for students who plan to work directly with those who have disabilities.

This project will demonstrate that individuals with disabilities have a lot to contribute to our campus. This objective is also in line with EWU Strategic Planning Goal of fostering rigorous and engaged student learning experience through the provision of an environment that is supportive of learning and teaching excellence.
While the speaker will serve as a catalyst for discussion, her message will continue to be discussed and understood through ongoing discussion and activities.

**Project Design:**
The Faculty Fellow for Diversity, in collaboration with the Disability Support Services and the Center for Disability Studies and Universal Access, intends to invite Ms. Kathy Buckley to present a lecture at EWU on April 11, 2007. The lecture will be free and open to the public. She will be available to meet students, faculty, staff and community members. She will also meet with students in EWU Sign language courses offered through the Department of Communication Disorders and taught by those who work in or are members of the region’s Deaf and hard of hearing community.

One week after Ms. Buckley’s lecture, there will be a panel discussion organized by Disability Support services to discuss the experiences of individuals with disabilities at EWU. The panel will be composed of EWU students.

**Role and Expertise of all Participants:**
Dr. James Ochwa-Echel, Faculty Fellow for Diversity. Role in the project includes preparation of the grant proposal, managing the budget and review of promotional material.

Robert A. Campbell, Director of Disability Support Services and ADA Compliance Officer. Mr. Campbell holds a M.A. in Philosophy and has been in the field of Disability Support Services since 1992. He will be responsible for planning, coordinating and scheduling Ms. Buckley’s visit at EWU.

Kevin Hills, Accommodation Specialist, Disability Support Services. Kevin has been accommodation specialist at EWU since 2001. He will work with the disability student’s organization to design and disseminate promotional materials.

Stephanie Mellor, Coordinator, Center for Disability Studies and Universal Access. The center is committed to improving the educational environment for students with disabilities by promoting an environment of Universal Education Access (UEA) to all people regardless of background or characteristics. Working with the disability students organizations, she will assist Kevin in the design and dissemination of promotional materials.

**Dissemination Plan:**
The lecture will be advertised widely at the university as well as within the Cheney and Spokane communities. Posters and fliers will be distributed on campus by students. EWU’s Sign Language courses will be involved through early contacts with instructors and student groups. There will also be mailing to students, faculty and staff, and residents of Cheney and Spokane. Advertisements will also be put in the local newspapers such as *Cheney Free Press, Spokesman Review, The Inlander* and *Good Morning Eastern*, as well as in publications and message boards for groups such as the Eastern Washington
Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Spokane-ASL (http://spokaneasl.com), and in relevant courses.

**Timetable:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-10-07</td>
<td>Confirm funding sources and contributions towards events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-10-07</td>
<td>Make necessary hotel and travel reservations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-15-07</td>
<td>Finalize Contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-20-07</td>
<td>Begin publicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-25-07</td>
<td>Lecture Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-1-07</td>
<td>Panel Discussion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honorarium</td>
<td>$6000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation (Airfare)</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicity</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>$7050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funding:
- Request from Diversity Initiative Grant: $5000
- Center for Disability Studies and Universal Access: $2500
- Total: $7050