



INFORMATION DATA FORM

1. **Project Name:** Extending Boundaries: Africana Studies Mini Project
2. **Project Director:** Dr. Christiana Okechukwu
3. **Project Starting and Ending Date:** January to May 2007
4. **Brief description of the project:**

The group of faculty involved in the Project of establishing Africana Studies program are working on an NEH Grant proposal. But rather than fold their hands and wait until the grant is secured, I would like us to engage in activities that will prepare us for the project when that grant is secured.

The group will carry out activities that will incorporate Africana Studies courses in the existing disciplines in the College.

The group of faculty involved in developing Africana Studies are engaged in exploring avenues for equipping themselves to teach courses in a future Africana Studies AA program whenever that materializes.

They will present on the readings while the facilitators will conduct the seminars and lend their expertise. Faculty seminars/workshops on each topic area will be once a month.

The MIH grant will enable the group to invite at least one notable speaker to the College.

5. **State fundamental need or concern addressed in this project.**

Because there is a paucity of courses about Africa and its Diaspora in U.S. high schools, Hollywood and the media are the main purveyors of such information, which often lacks objectivity, critical analyses, and truth.

The great need for global interdependence in this age; the vital position of Africa in this scheme; the immense diversity of African, African-American, Afro-Caribbean, and Afro-Latino/a cultures, traditions, and values, make it crucial that Montgomery College students are exposed to studies addressing the issues of Africa and the African Diaspora.

There is a gap in existing academic disciplines at MC that the Africana Studies if eventually adopted in M.C. curriculum fills.

6. List the project's core goals and/or objectives.

One or more notable scholars in the field of Africana Studies will be invited to hold a lecture/workshop for the interested faculty. The activities will focus on faculty development as a sequel for faculty designing courses that will incorporate the skill acquired. Faculty will be encouraged to incorporate their learning in their present courses prior to carving out new courses after they have acquired enough intellectual background to do so. The project will provide workshop/lecture opportunities for faculty to work synergistically to incorporate issues in Africana Studies and create future interdisciplinary courses that will strengthen existing courses and provide opportunities for faculty to develop strong awareness of Africana Studies.

7. Who will benefit from this project?

The activities will provide an avenue for the core group of faculty working on the proposed Africana Studies to acquire both intellectual competencies for further study, course revision tools for immediate use in the classroom. Other interested members of faculty and students will also be given opportunities to engage in Africana discipline awareness activities.

All in all, the faculty, staff, students, and even the community will benefit from this project.