

Diverse Musicians Alliance

October 2005

Description of Program

Currently ten students who form an academic neighborhood in the College of Music. The group's project, intended to improve the College climate for diversity, is facilitating a College of Music-wide student concert that is focused on the performance of ethnic music from students' backgrounds. This concert will be open to the public. In order to participate in this group, students must maintain a 2.25 minimum grade point average. Students holding the minimum GPA are expected to raise it each semester, and are entitled to free tutoring to enable them to do so. Students also receive a \$1000 yearly participation grant, for a maximum of four years. The College of Music academic neighborhood was initiated during the 2004-05 academic year, through a course release awarded to Professor Romero. Ten students are currently served, with a maximum of twenty projected over the next two years. Students work closely with members of the College of Music Diversity Committee, comprised of five faculty members, and with Professor Romero, the faculty director of the group.

Staffing: One of the students of this group, Rebecca Romo, accumulates works hours compensated as work-study. Faculty are not compensated in any special ways for their work with the cohort student group.

LEAD Financial Aid: \$10,000 per year

Some indicator of cost-effectiveness: The program is still too young for this to be evident; however, one of the students will graduate in December of this year (2005). The students in the group enjoy the cohort experience, although their first test is to facilitate a concert in the College of Music.