



Faculty Development Grant Report 2025

- Dr. Nicole Files-Thompson
- Prof. Trejha Whitfield
- Prof. Brandi Berry

Summary of the project from the submitted grant:

Dr. Nicole Files-Thompson, alongside Professors Brandi Berry and Trejha Whitfield, requested funds to author three inclusive, student-centered communication textbooks tailored for HBCUs. Recognizing the lack of culturally relevant materials, the team is collaborating with Kendall Hunt to develop textbooks for Human Communication, Public Speaking, and Media Technology courses. These resources aim to integrate diverse voices, foster engagement, and enhance communication skills for HBCU students. The project includes manuscript development, multimedia materials, and iterative refinement based on student feedback during Fall 2024. Success will be measured through evaluations and disseminated via presentations and scholarly contributions. The textbooks will also be marketed to other HBCUs to expand their impact.

Progress:

- Weekly check-ins about the project
- On-board training with Kendall Hunt
- Created a project management plan
- Review all 2000-level syllabi
- Review Kendall Hunt textbooks that relate to each course
- Recruited student intern to develop charts, graphs and search for fair-use images
- Outlined chapters
- Edited and gave feedback on each other's progress

Obstacles:

- Kendall Hunt oversold the ease and seamlessness of the process and accessing their databases.



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Next Steps:

- Continue gathering images
- Continue editing and giving feedback on each other's progress

Conclusion:

The project has made significant progress, including establishing weekly check-ins, completing onboarding with Kendall Hunt, developing a project management plan, reviewing relevant syllabi and textbooks, and outlining chapters. A student intern has been recruited to assist with visuals, and collaborative editing and feedback have been ongoing. Despite challenges with Kendall Hunt's database access, the team remains focused on refining content. Moving forward, the next steps include continuing to gather fair-use images and further editing and providing feedback to ensure the textbooks meet the highest standards of quality and inclusivity.

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