

Virtual Humanities Center at Great Basin College
Annual Report to Faculty Senate
and Request for Renewal of Ad-Hoc Status
13 May 2017

Since 2013, the Virtual Humanities Center at Great Basin College (VHC), which manages the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Humanities Grant, has operated under annual ad-hoc status from the GBC Faculty Senate. This year, we are currently completing the fourth year of a five-year challenge grant. We present this report of our activities for the 2016-2017 academic year and a request for continued status as an ad-hoc committee.

Summary of 2016-2017 Activities

The VHC has concentrated this year on developing content for the project, as well as refining policies and procedures for undertaking future projects as more endowment funding becomes available. This process is in accordance with our Mission Statement:

Great Basin College, through its Virtual Humanities Center, seeks
to collect, curate, and cultivate the humanities for rural Nevada.

With these goals in mind, the activities of the VHC for 2016-2017 were as follows:

Collect (incorporation of materials solicited by VHC to build digital archive database):

- Recording GBC events such as the Vince J. Jauristi celebration in November for incorporation into the VHC archives.
- Recording of Johnny B performance in November 2016 for incorporation within the VHC database, as well as a special interview for classroom use by Annie Hicks.
- New additions made to the Humanities Toolkit include items developed by related to faculty in-service workshops on reading, note-taking, and basic study skills.
- At the request of the Science Department's INBRE Grant, the VHC has made recordings of two INBRE events, the Zika Virus Public Health panel discussion and a panel on applying to science graduate programs, available for streaming through the VHC database.
- Continued incorporation of Great Basin Indian Archive (GBIA) materials into the VHC database. This process has been slower than anticipated due to streaming server updates being conducted by the University of Utah.
- Hosting live streaming of the Western Folklife Center/Nevada Humanities keynote speaker Andy Wilkinson at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering and subsequent incorporation of the streams into the VHC database. Wilkinson also sat for a course-oriented interview with Dr. Joshua Webster, which is also available in the VHC database.
- Preliminary planning on a request forwarded through Barrick to assist and potentially host the Jarbidge community archives in the VHC. Planning will continue through Summer 2017.

Curate (materials originating outside of VHC which will be managed / presented by VHC):

- Worked with the Great Basin Indian Archives (GBIA) and the University of Utah (U of U) for continue organizing the full-time streaming of the Western Shoshone Oral

Histories currently housed at the GBC Library. It is expected that the majority of the currently 63 oral histories will be available by June 2017.

- VHC has worked with the GBIA student worker and members of the Western Shoshone communities to catalog existing GBIA content from a community perspective.
- In conjunction with the Sam Broncho, the Shoshone Language instructor at GBC, the VHC has begun hosting a series of curricular resources for use by the Shoshone Community language programs sponsored by Barrick.
- Preliminary work with the GBC 50th Anniversary Committee and Media Services to collect and host photographs and other materials for the GBC 50th Anniversary.
- Working on incorporating the “GBC Talks! Program” and GBC Ted Talks in the VHC database to make available to the public.
- Continued working with *Argentum* to place copies of their works into the VHC database.

Cultivate (events or activities arranged to promote humanities at GBC and in its communities):

- The VHC helped organize, record, and store the “Constitution Day with GBC: A Conversation on the Second Amendment” program. The community-based discussion was incorporated into the GBC database, and is being used in some classes as extra-credit opportunity for students.
- Hosted two faculty in-service workshops on incorporating humanities into teaching. The Spring 2017 in-service on note-taking and reading skills was co-hosted with the TAACCCT Grant team. This in-service is currently being ingested into the VHC database.
- The VHC has presented to the Community Shoshone Language Workshop hosted at GBC in November on the possibilities of the digital humanities for language revitalization.
- The VHC is currently working with the Community Shoshone Language Initiative (CSLI) to support the Youth Language Program being hosted by GBC for the first time in July and August, 2017.
- The VHC worked with the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) to present a panel for the “Black and White Movie Night” presentation of *The Best Years of Our Lives*, dealing with the re-integration of veterans into peacetime civilian life. A recording of the panel presentation is currently being integrated into the VHC database.
- Scott Gavorsky presented a paper at the Digital Humanities Symposium Utah (DHU2) in February entitled “Building Community Partnerships to Build Digital Humanities Projects: The Experience of Two Projects in Rural Nevada,” sharing the VHC’s experiences with working with the local Basque and Shoshone communities on digital projects.
- Arrangements made with the Western Folklife Center to help support the 24th National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, whose theme will be “Basques and Buckaroos.”
- Further development of HUM 111 Gateway Course for the Humanities remain on hold pending proposed changes to General Education requirements here at GBC.
- Funds remain in the NEH grant for technology upgrades to distance education classrooms, but VHC has not been provided with guidance from GBC about specific needs to which these funds may be applied.

Fundraising:

The VHC has also been working with the GBC Foundation to complete fundraising for the VHC Endowment. At the beginning of the current fiscal year (1 July 2017), approximately \$46,000 was needed to achieve the funding milestone for this year of \$950,000. Although fundraising has been slower than anticipated, we are happy to report that it appears that the VHC will achieve its fundraising goal by 30 June 2016. This milestone will release an additional \$50,000 of NEH funding for the endowment, enabling the VHC to remain on target for raising \$1,000,000 in nonfederal funds and obtaining \$500,000 in federal funds by 31 July 2019. The VHC has also worked with the GBC Foundation to refine a fundraising approach more tailored to the GBC service area, including organizing and hosting the first “GBC Dinner with a Professor” event in April 2017.

Quarterly interest from the NEH portion of the endowment was received by the VHC for the first time starting in October 2016. This limited initial amount has been used to sponsor VHC programming.

Note that collectively these activities met the goals set by the VHC in its 2014-2015 Report to Faculty Senate.

ACTION REQUESTED: Renewal of Ad-Hoc Committee Status for 2017-2018

The VHC requests that the GBC Faculty Senate renew the Center’s ad hoc status for the coming academic year (2017-2018).

Planned activities for 2017-2018 currently include:

1. Continued endowment fundraising to complete matching the NEH Challenge Grant. Approximately \$60,000 remains to be raised to complete the 2:1 match goal of raising \$1 million for the VHC Endowment. This activity will be conducted in conjunction with the GBC Foundation.
2. As endowment interest funding the VHC becomes available, the VHC will be playing a more active role in helping sponsor and fund humanities events at GBC for both the GBC and broader communities.
3. The VHC is pleased to begin offering faculty stipends for the development of humanities- or teaching-related content. Two stipends, each equal to a three-credit course release, will be made available in Spring 2018. The VHC is currently devising an application process for these stipends.
4. Introduction of a new biennial theme for 2017-2019: “Telling Our Stories”. This theme will be used in conjunction with GBC’s 50th anniversary celebrations.
5. Planned faculty workshop activities centered on integrating humanities content in the design of classes, research, or community-oriented projects, and incorporation of TAACCCT grant open-source materials developed by GBC into the Humanities Toolkit.

6. Working with the GBIA, the Community Shoshone Language Initiative, and Western Shoshone communities to acquire and distribute Shoshone language resources and tools through the GBIA.
7. Development of a project with the Northeastern Nevada Museum to digitize and place into the VHC database the complete collection of *Quarterly* journals, focusing initially on articles written by ECC/NNCC/GBC students in conjunction with GBC's 50th Anniversary. This project is intended to be multi-year and supported in part by additional outside grants.
8. Continue building partnerships with both GBC components such as the Great Basin Indian Archive, community organizations such as the museums, and other academic institutions.
9. Potential acquisition and installation of additional lecture-capture capability. Funding remains in the grant for the equivalent of two more MediaSite permanent installations. VHC has yet to be presented by GBC with proposed needs for installation. Rather than potentially use this funding, the VHC will propose these funds be added to the endowment if GBC cannot provide us with guidance for these funds prior to 1 October 2017.