

Faculty Member: Marisa Young

Project Title: Advanced Quantitative Workshop Series for the Faculty of Social Sciences

Forward With Integrity Project Summary

1. How the activity enhanced the competence and effectiveness of this individual (or others) with respect to teaching, research, service and/or leadership;

I have incorporated the skills and training I received into my graduate-level statistics course. I have also used the methods I learned in my own research. Initially, I tried to organize a semester long workshop series to communicate the contents of the seminar to others; however, there were few students / faculty who could commit to the designated dates. I have been working with several interested students one-on-one to learn the techniques, rather than through a workshop-based approach.

2. How the activity contributed to the goals of a course/program/department/Faculty;

As mentioned, I have incorporated the training I received from the week long seminar into my graduate-level statistics course, as well as in my day-to-day mentorship of graduate students.

3. How you have (or plan to) communicate and disseminate the insights gained with peers and broader McMaster communities.

4. How the outcomes of the project will be sustained or expanded.

I have been in contact with the organizers of the Institute for Quantitative and Qualitative Data (IQ2) – Dr. Tina Fetner (Department of Sociology); Dr. Jerimiah Hurley (Dean, Social Sciences); and, Dr. Michelle Dion (Department of Political Science), who plan to coordinate several workshop series open to all faculty and students in the 2016/17 academic year. I have offered to conduct several of these workshops, based on my seminar training. I plan to do so on an annual basis. I believe this will be a more successful approach to the dissemination of my acquired knowledge, compared to the workshops I set up, independently, and of which were poorly attended. Upon approval, I hope to pool the funds remaining from my FWI grant with existing funding for IQ2's workshop series.

Aside from these prospective workshops, I will continue to teach the learned statistical techniques in my graduate-level seminar, and apply these approaches to my own research.

5. Please outline any barriers or challenges that may have prevented you from achieving some of your project goals.

Student and faculty participation in the workshops was limited. I am not sure whether this was a product of the timing, communication of events, or interest in the subject matter. I hope to have better luck working with IQ2.

On a personal level, I had a close member of my family pass while I was attending the seminar in Philadelphia. I had to leave two days early to attend the funeral in Alberta. I had follow up conversations with the instructor to ensure I understood any missed material.