



CENTER FOR THE
STUDY *of*
DIVERSITY

Date: September 30, 2015

To: Professor James Jones

Director, Center for the Study of Diversity (CSD)

From: Professor Gretchen Bauer

Political Science and International Relations

Re: 2015 CSD grant

In spring 2015 we were awarded a grant from the CSD in the amount of \$2,594 in order to fund the first in what should be a series of 'Difficult Conversations' on Race and Social Justice in America sponsored by the Department of Political Science and International Relations (and other units on campus as well). We invited Professor David Roediger from the University of Kansas to speak on 'White Responses to Black Resistance from the General Strike of the Slaves to Brown 3.' Our goal was to engage primarily white students at UD in a discussion of whiteness, white privilege, and the role of white students in combatting racism and fighting for social justice. The talk was held on Monday, March 16, 2015 at 7 pm in 130 Smith Hall to an audience of about 200 mostly white students. Students listened very attentively to the speaker and asked many thoughtful questions.

Grant funds were used to cover Professor Roediger's travel, overnight accommodation at the Courtyard Marriott and a dinner at the Stone Balloon, with Professors James Jones, Gretchen Bauer, Elaine Salo, Elizabeth Higginbotham, and Arwen Mohun.

During spring semester 2015 there were other events on campus that were part of a wider Difficult Conversations series, in particular from the Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity and the Center for Black Culture. Faculty in the Department of Political Science and International Relations would like to continue the series, especially in light of recent developments on the University of Delaware campus. At this time, no concrete plans have been made, however.