Application Summary:
The proposed project seeks to create knowledge about best practices in developing that enhances the organizing capacity of grassroots organizations and in creating interorganizational collaboration that leads to social change. This project will involve 3-4 undergraduate students, who will receive training and mentorship from the proposer on evaluation research using surveys and interviews. These students will participate in analyzing data collected from grassroots groups in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties to assess their (1) community organizing capacity, and (2) interorganizational communication and collaboration practices. Two waves of data will be collected and analyzed, including data collected before and after some of these organizations attend a three-day community organizing training in 2017. The principal sponsor of this training, the McCune Foundation, has committed to providing a $300 stipend to up to four student research assistants for this project. The faculty proposer is seeking reassigned time so she can effectively train and mentor these students. This project is expected to lead to presentations and publications co-authored by the students and faculty proposer in the areas of evaluation, applied communication, and non-profit sector research. Furthermore, this work can lay groundwork for pursuing funding from external sponsors, such as the National Science Foundation.

Comments to the Administrator(s):
This is my first time applying for the mini-grant. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I'm looking forward to receiving your feedback and suggestions.
Curriculum Vitae

Nien-Tsu Nancy Chen
California State University Channel Islands
One University Drive
Camarillo, CA 93012
Phone: 213-618-2113
Email: nien-tsu.chen@csuci.edu

Education

Ph.D. in Communication 2013
Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
University of Southern California, United States
  - Dissertation: Developing and Testing a Heuristic-Systematic Model of Health Decision Making: The Role of Affect, Trust, Confidence and Media Influence
  - Track: Interpersonal and Health Communication

M.A. in Communication 2010
Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
University of Southern California, United States

B.A. (Honors) in Media and Communications 2003
University of Melbourne, Australia
  - Concentration: Cinema Studies

B.A. in Professional Communication 2002
RMIT University, Australia
  - Concentration: Public Relations
  - Production Major: Radio Production

Academic Positions

Assistant Professor  Aug 2014 – present
Communication Program
California State University Channel Islands

Postdoctoral Scholar  Sept 2013 – Aug 2014
Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
University of Southern California

Research Assistant to the Metamorphosis Project  Aug 2008 – May 2013
Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
University of Southern California

Research Assistant to the Interacting with Autism Project  Jan 2011 – Dec 2011
School of Cinematic Arts
University of Southern California
ACADEMIC POSITIONS – CONT’D

Teaching Assistant Aug 2008 – May 2013
Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
University of Southern California

Teaching Assistant May 2008 – Aug 2008
School of Policy, Planning and Development
University of Southern California

INSTRUCTION

California State University Channel Islands Aug 2014 – present
Courses Taught as Instructor of Record
❖ COMM 310 Quantitative Research Methods
❖ COMM 325 Media Campaigns
❖ COMM 328 Community-based Storytelling
❖ COMM/NRS 441 Health Communication
❖ COMM 494 Independent Study
❖ COMM 499 Capstone Project
❖ UNIV 392 International Experience: Western & Eastern Approaches to Communicating Health & Mental Illness

University of Southern California May 2008 – May 2014
Course Taught as Instructor of Record
❖ ASCJ 440 Engaging Urban Communities in the Digital Era
Courses Taught as Teaching Assistant
❖ PPD 572 Social Service Communication Campaigns: Theory, Research and Practice
❖ CGMT 510 Communication, Values, Attitudes and Behavior
❖ COMM 304 Interpersonal Communication
❖ COMM 301 Empirical Research
❖ COMM 200 Communication as a Social Science

AWARDS AND HONORS

Outstanding Community Engaged Faculty Award 2016
California State University Channel Islands

California State University Channel Islands

First Place Award for Poster in the Social Sciences Category 2011
Third Annual GPSS Poster Symposium, University of Southern California
The Alhambra Source poster co-produced with Katherine Ognyanova

Faculty of Arts Dean’s Award, University of Melbourne, Australia 2003

Chinese Community Social Services Centre Prize, Melbourne, Australia 2002
**PUBLICATIONS**

**PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES**


**BOOK CHAPTERS**


BOOK CHAPTERS


TECHNICAL REPORTS


MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS


Chen, N.-T. N., Moran, M. B., Zhao, N., Ball-Rokeach, S., Murphy, S. T. (under review). The effects of mass media and local communication resources on health.


CONFEERENCE PRESENTATIONS (PEER REVIEWED)


*Undergraduate Student as Co-author


*Top Paper in Intercultural Communication


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (PEER REVIEWED) – CONT’D


INSTRUCTIONAL GRANTS

Health Communication Guest Speaker Panel
Funding Agency: CUSCI IRA Funds
Co-applicant with Tracylee Clarke
Amount: $3,000

Digital Technology and Community-Based Storytelling Learning Community
Funding Agency: CUSCI Foundation Funds
Co-applicant with Christina Smith
Amount: $2,000

Dec 7, 2015
Nov 13, 2015
### Instructional Grants – cont’d

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication for Social Change: Class Presentations and Campus-wide Speaking Event</td>
<td>July 14, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agency: CUSCI IRA Funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-applicant with Jacob Jenkins and Andrea Grove</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: $820</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Campaigns and Hospice Care: Class Presentations and Campus-wide Speaking Event</td>
<td>July 14, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agency: CUSCI IRA Funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-applicant with Jacob Jenkins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: $1,550</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careers in Strategic Communication and Crafting Successful Health Campaigns</td>
<td>Dec 12, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agency: CUSCI IRA Funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-applicant with Christina Smith and Tracylee Clarke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: $1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technology and Community-Based Storytelling Learning Community</td>
<td>Oct 30, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agency: CUSCI Foundation Funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-applicant with Christina Smith and Tracylee Clarke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: $2,216</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Learning Website and Materials</td>
<td>Oct 17, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agency: CSU Lottery Funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sole Applicant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: $647</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Research Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place-Based and Solutions-Oriented Storytelling for Enhancing Local Engagement and Intergroup Relations</td>
<td>May 24, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agency: James W. Carey Urban Communication Grant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-applicant with Andrea Wenzel and Nan Zhao</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: $2,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing and Testing a Model of Systematic and Heuristic Routes to Vaccine Acceptance: Comparison Between a General Population Sample in the U.S. and a Taiwanese-American Sample</td>
<td>Mar 28, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agency: Tsai Family Research Fund for Taiwan Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: $1,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic Engagement and Journalism Initiative</td>
<td>Sept 9, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agency: Southern California Edison</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-applicant with Sandra Ball-Rokeach, Michael Parks and Daniela Gerson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount funded: $25,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SERVICE

University Committees & Activities

California State University Channel Islands

- Member of the Center for International Affairs Advisory Committee Fall 2016 – present
- Member of the Center for Community Engagement Advisory Board Fall 2015 – present
- Member of the Research and Sponsored Programs Advisory Board Fall 2015 – present
- Application Reviewer for Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo Institute Internship Program Spring 2016
- Member of the Mini-Grant Review Committee Fall 2015 – Spring 2016
- Member of the Search Coordinating Committee Fall 2014 – Spring 2015

Departmental Committees & Activities

California State University Channel Islands

- Advisor to the Omega Alpha Undergraduate Communication Honor Society Fall 2014 – present
- Member of the Communication Program Search Committee Fall 2015 – present
- Member of the Spanish Program Search Committee Fall 2015
- Member of the Health Sciences Program Search Committee Spring 2015

Community Committees & Activities

- Member of the McCune Foundation Grant Review Committee 2016

Professional Activities

- Journal Manuscript Reviewer for Journal of Communication 2016
- Journal Manuscript Reviewer for Risk Analysis 2016
- Paper and Panel Reviewer for the Annual Conference of the Western States Communication Association 2015
- Manuscript Reviewer for the Journal of Medical Internet Research 2015
- Abstract Reviewer for the National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media 2015
- Journal Manuscript Reviewer for Communication Research 2013
- Paper Reviewer for the Annual Conference of the International Communication Association 2013

Professional Accreditations

Certificate of Accreditation as Interpreter between English and Mandarin National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters, Australia 2005

Certificate of Accreditation as Translator from Chinese into English National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters, Australia 2005
PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Taiwan Centers for Disease Control 2007 - present
   Freelance English Manuscript Editor and Translator
   (Chinese to English) of the *Taiwan Epidemiology Bulletin*

Taiwan Centers for Disease Control 2005 - 2007
   Public Relations Officer

Unique Business Television, Taiwan 2005
   Foreign News Editor

SBS Radio, Australia 2002 - 2004
   Broadcaster-Journalist (Level 1, Mandarin Program)
CURRICULUM VITAE

Nien-Tsu Nancy Chen
California State University Channel Islands
One University Drive
Camarillo, CA 93012
Phone: 213-618-2113
Email: nien-tsu.chen@csuci.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Communication 2013
Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
University of Southern California, United States
  ❖ Dissertation: Developing and Testing a Heuristic-Systematic Model of Health
    Decision Making: The Role of Affect, Trust, Confidence and Media Influence
  ❖ Track: Interpersonal and Health Communication

M.A. in Communication 2010
Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
University of Southern California, United States

B.A. (Honors) in Media and Communications 2003
University of Melbourne, Australia
  ❖ Concentration: Cinema Studies

B.A. in Professional Communication 2002
RMIT University, Australia
  ❖ Concentration: Public Relations
  ❖ Production Major: Radio Production

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor Aug 2014 – present
Communication Program
California State University Channel Islands

Postdoctoral Scholar Sept 2013 – Aug 2014
Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
University of Southern California

Research Assistant to the Metamorphosis Project Aug 2008 – May 2013
Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
University of Southern California

Research Assistant to the Interacting with Autism Project Jan 2011 – Dec 2011
School of Cinematic Arts
University of Southern California
ACADEMIC POSITIONS – CONT’D

Teaching Assistant Aug 2008 – May 2013
Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
University of Southern California

Teaching Assistant May 2008 – Aug 2008
School of Policy, Planning and Development
University of Southern California

INSTRUCTION

California State University Channel Islands Aug 2014 – present
Courses Taught as Instructor of Record
❖ COMM 310 Quantitative Research Methods
❖ COMM 325 Media Campaigns
❖ COMM 328 Community-based Storytelling
❖ COMM/NRS 441 Health Communication
❖ COMM 494 Independent Study
❖ COMM 499 Capstone Project
❖ UNIV 392 International Experience: Western & Eastern Approaches to Communicating Health & Mental Illness

University of Southern California May 2008 – May 2014
Course Taught as Instructor of Record
❖ ASCJ 440 Engaging Urban Communities in the Digital Era
Courses Taught as Teaching Assistant
❖ PPD 572 Social Service Communication Campaigns: Theory, Research and Practice
❖ CGMT 510 Communication, Values, Attitudes and Behavior
❖ COMM 304 Interpersonal Communication
❖ COMM 301 Empirical Research
❖ COMM 200 Communication as a Social Science

AWARDS AND HONORS

Outstanding Community Engaged Faculty Award 2016
California State University Channel Islands

California State University Channel Islands

First Place Award for Poster in the Social Sciences Category 2011
Third Annual GPSS Poster Symposium, University of Southern California
The Alhambra Source, poster co-produced with Katherine Ognyanova

Faculty of Arts Dean’s Award, University of Melbourne, Australia 2003

Chinese Community Social Services Centre Prize, Melbourne, Australia 2002
**PUBLICATIONS**

**PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES**


**BOOK CHAPTERS**

BOOK CHAPTERS


TECHNICAL REPORTS


MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Chen, N.-T. N., Moran, M. B., Zhao, N., Ball-Rokeach, S., Murphy, S. T. (under review). The effects of mass media and local communication resources on health.


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (PEER REVIEWED)


*Undergraduate Student as Co-author


*Top Paper in Intercultural Communication


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (PEER REVIEWED) – CONT’D


INSTRUCTIONAL GRANTS

Health Communication Guest Speaker Panel       Dec 7, 2015
Funding Agency: CUSCI IRA Funds
Co-applicant with Tracylee Clarke
Amount: $3,000

Digital Technology and Community-Based Storytelling Learning       Nov 13, 2015
Community
Funding Agency: CUSCI Foundation Funds
Co-applicant with Christina Smith
Amount: $2,000
**INSTRUCTIONAL GRANTS – cont’d**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication for Social Change: Class Presentations and Campus-wide Speaking Event</td>
<td>July 14, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agency: CUSCI IRA Funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-applicant with Jacob Jenkins and Andrea Grove</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: $820</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Campaigns and Hospice Care: Class Presentations and Campus-wide Speaking Event</td>
<td>July 14, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agency: CUSCI IRA Funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-applicant with Jacob Jenkins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: $1,550</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careers in Strategic Communication and Crafting Successful Health Campaigns</td>
<td>Dec 12, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agency: CUSCI IRA Funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-applicant with Christina Smith and Tracylee Clarke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: $1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technology and Community-Based Storytelling Learning Community</td>
<td>Oct 30, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agency: CUSCI Foundation Funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-applicant with Christina Smith and Tracylee Clarke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: $2,216</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Learning Website and Materials</td>
<td>Oct 17, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agency: CSU Lottery Funds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sole Applicant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: $647</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESEARCH GRANTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place-Based and Solutions-Oriented Storytelling for Enhancing Local Engagement and Intergroup Relations</td>
<td>May 24, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agency: James W. Carey Urban Communication Grant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-applicant with Andrea Wenzel and Nan Zhao</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: $2,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing and Testing a Model of Systematic and Heuristic Routes to Vaccine Acceptance: Comparison Between a General Population Sample in the U.S. and a Taiwanese-American Sample</td>
<td>Mar 28, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agency: Tsai Family Research Fund for Taiwan Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: $1,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic Engagement and Journalism Initiative</td>
<td>Sept 9, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agency: Southern California Edison</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-applicant with Sandra Ball-Rokeach, Michael Parks and Daniela Gerson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount funded: $25,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SERVICE

University Committees & Activities
California State University Channel Islands
- Member of the Center for International Affairs Advisory Committee Fall 2016 – present
- Member of the Center for Community Engagement Advisory Board Fall 2015 – present
- Member of the Research and Sponsored Programs Advisory Board Fall 2015 – present
- Application Reviewer for Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo Institute Internship Program Spring 2016
- Member of the Mini-Grant Review Committee Fall 2015 – Spring 2016
- Member of the Search Coordinating Committee Fall 2014 – Spring 2015

Departmental Committees & Activities
California State University Channel Islands
- Advisor to the Omega Alpha Undergraduate Communication Honor Society Fall 2014 – present
- Member of the Communication Program Search Committee Fall 2015 – present
- Member of the Spanish Program Search Committee Fall 2015
- Member of the Health Sciences Program Search Committee Spring 2015

Community Committees & Activities
- Member of the McCune Foundation Grant Review Committee 2016

Professional Activities
- Journal Manuscript Reviewer for Journal of Communication 2016
- Journal Manuscript Reviewer for Risk Analysis 2016
- Paper and Panel Reviewer for the Annual Conference of the Western States Communication Association 2015
- Manuscript Reviewer for the Journal of Medical Internet Research 2015
- Abstract Reviewer for the National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media 2015
- Journal Manuscript Reviewer for Communication Research 2013
- Paper Reviewer for the Annual Conference of the International Communication Association 2013

Professional Accreditations
Certificate of Accreditation as Interpreter between English and Mandarin National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters, Australia 2005
Certificate of Accreditation as Translator from Chinese into English National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters, Australia 2005
PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Taiwan Centers for Disease Control 2007 - present
Freelance English Manuscript Editor and Translator
(Chinese to English) of the Taiwan Epidemiology Bulletin
Taiwan Centers for Disease Control 2005 - 2007
Public Relations Officer
Unique Business Television, Taiwan 2005
Foreign News Editor
SBS Radio, Australia 2002 - 2004
Broadcaster-Journalist (Level 1, Mandarin Program)
Assessing Community Organizing Capacity and Interorganizational Collaboration Among Grassroots Organizations in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties

Project Summary
The proposed project seeks to create knowledge about best practices in developing training that enhances the organizing capacity of grassroots organizations and in creating interorganizational collaboration that leads to social change. This project will involve 3-4 undergraduate students, who will receive training and mentorship from the proposer on evaluation research using surveys and interviews. These students will participate in analyzing data collected from grassroots groups in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties to assess their (1) community organizing capacity, and (2) interorganizational communication and collaboration practices. Two waves of data will be collected and analyzed, including data collected before and after some of these organizations attend a three-day community organizing training in 2017. The principal sponsor of this training, the McCune Foundation, has committed to providing a $300 stipend to up to four student research assistants for this project. The faculty proposer is seeking reassigned time so she can effectively train and mentor these students. This project is expected to lead to presentations and publications co-authored by the students and faculty proposer in the areas of evaluation, applied communication, and non-profit sector research. Furthermore, this work can lay groundwork for pursuing funding from external sponsors, such as the National Science Foundation.

Proposal Narrative
Project Goals and Outcomes
This project seeks to create knowledge about best practices in developing training that enhances the organizing capacity of grassroots organizations and in creating interorganizational collaboration that leads to social change. Community organizing is the process of empowering residents with the necessary skills and resources to mobilize around issues of collective concern (Obama, 2012). In the areas surrounding CSUCI, there are many organizations dedicated to social justice issues. Research has demonstrated that the effectiveness of these organizations depends on several factors, such as having staff who are well versed in the strategies of community organizing and being able to leverage collaborative partnerships to address common concerns (Cooper & Shumate, 2012; Ellingson, Woodley, & Paik, 2012; LoaCom, 2015). However, small and less established organizations often lack the opportunities and resources to create interorganizational collaboration and provide professional training to their staff. To address this challenge, the McCune Foundation, a major funder of grassroots organizations in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, is sponsoring a three-day training in April 2017 to help local organizers hone their skills and connect with one another. The proposed project seeks to recruit 3-4 undergraduate students to work with the faculty applicant to collect and analyze data from participating and non-participating organizations to understand the effects of this training and the more general challenges and facilitators for capacity building among grassroots groups. The goal of this study is therefore to investigate:

- If and how the training has been successful in enhancing the organizing capacity of grassroots organizations.
- If and how the opportunity to connect with other local organizations during the training has been leveraged into strategic interorganizational collaboration.
- What are the barriers and facilitators in implementing the lessons learned during the training?
What are the barriers and facilitators in sustaining and capitalizing upon the organizational connections made during the training?

Insights revealed through this research will help improve current organizing training offered by private and public funders. They will also contribute to scholarship on the facilitators and barriers to creating and maintaining effective interorganizational collaboration among grassroots groups. While there is some literature in these areas, the proposed study’s focus on smaller grassroots organizations in our region is unique, and the plan to use a quasi-experimental mixed methods design will enable this study to address the research questions more fully than most previous studies that relied on either a quantitative or qualitative approach.

Research Plan and Methodology

This study will follow a quasi-experimental design as diagramed below:

M1 X M2
M2 X M4

- **X Intervention:** Organizing training from 4/28/2017 – 4/30/2017
- **M1 & M2:** Collection of baseline data from the Executive Directors or management staff members from participating and non-participating local organizations through a Qualtrics survey in March 2017; collection of baseline data using a print version of the Qualtrics survey from training participants on the first day of the training on 4/28/2017
- **M2 & M4:** Collection of follow-up data six months after the training in November 2017 through the same Qualtrics survey distributed to training participants and EDs; interviews with training participants from November to December in 2017

The baseline and follow-up questionnaires will include items pertaining to the following topics:

- General information about the organization
- General information about the respondent
- Items on community organizing capacity: Adapted from the Marguerite Casey Foundation Organizational Assessment Tool
- Items on interorganizational communication and collaboration: Adapted from the Community Health Councils Coalition Evaluation Survey

The protocol for the interviews will include questions designed to understand if and how training participants have implemented the organizing skills they learned from the training and capitalized upon the organizational connections they made. Barriers and facilitators for translating knowledge into practice and for developing interorganizational collaboration will also be investigated.

Should this project be funded with a Mini-grant, the proposer will begin laying groundwork in Spring 2017 by obtaining IRB approval for the study and working with the McCune Foundation to collect baseline survey data. Up to four student research assistants will subsequently be recruited in Summer 2017, and they will meet with the proposer every week during the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters to work on the following:

- They will receive training from the faculty proposer on developing interview protocols and recruitment materials, conducting interviews, performing thematic analysis on interview data, using Qualtrics to administer surveys, and working with SPSS to analyze survey data.
• They will help finalize the interview protocol, send out interview invitations to community organizations, and conduct interviews throughout the Fall 2017 semester.
• They will assist with administering the follow-up survey via Qualtrics between 11/1/2017-11/30/2017 and work on subsequent data analysis using SPSS.
• They will be mentored by the faculty applicant on quantitative and qualitative data analysis to produce a professional report for the McCune Foundation and academic manuscripts for conferences or journals in Spring 2018.

Professional Development Benefits for Faculty
Community empowerment through communication and organizing has been central to my scholarship and teaching. While my previous research mostly focused on organizations and neighborhoods in Los Angeles, it is my hope to connect my work more closely with local efforts in Ventura County. I have been working on establishing connections with local organizations since I joined CSUCI in Fall 2014, and the proposed project provides me a unique opportunity to apply my scholarly interest and skills in our local context. Using the proposed project as a case in point, I am hoping to contribute to knowledge on evidence-based strategies for developing organizing capacity and interorganizational collaboration among grassroots groups. Presentation and/or publication of findings from this study will help enhance my scholarly credentials in the areas of applied communication, evaluation, and non-profit sector research. I might also be able to leverage this study to apply for grants from external funders, such as the National Science Foundation or National Institutes of Health, as they give favorable consideration to investigators with solid experience in evaluation research and in developing evidence-based interventions.

Benefits to the University, School, Program, and the applicant’s teaching
From a macro-perspective, having CSUCI students and faculty working with a local funder and grassroots organizations will be a testimony to our university’s commitment to community engagement. This also aligns well with the Communication Program’s emphasis on non-profit leadership. The proposed project will be presented to the community partners orally and in writing at its conclusion, and these activities will highlight our university’s investment in empowering and improving local communities. From a micro-perspective, students interested in evaluation research have an opportunity to hone their skills through this project. Having experience in conducting research in a real-world context will enhance students’ chances for pursuing graduate studies or professional careers in many fields. Furthermore, this project will put students in direct contact with many community organizations in our region and help increase their future job prospects in the non-profit sector. From a personal standpoint, I have taught the Quantitative Research Methods course in my program for the past five semesters, and I enjoy the experience of mentoring student class projects. However, these projects have exclusively relied on convenience samples that primarily involve participants from the students’ social networks. The proposed project will give me an opportunity to mentor a small group of students to apply their knowledge and skills outside of their social circles and in a more real-world context. It will give me invaluable insights into if and how this type of project can be scaled up for my Quantitative Research Methods course, as I will have a better understanding of the process and challenges involved in mentoring students on research projects that involve actual organizations as participants or clients. The opportunity to create stronger ties with local organizations through the proposed project is also invaluable to me, as I am always looking to connect with appropriate organizations to provide service learning opportunities for my students.
**Dissemination Plan**

Findings from this project will be disseminated through the following channels:

- Through conference presentations and/or publications in the areas of communication, evaluation, or non-profit sector research (e.g. presentation at the annual conference of the National Communication Association; manuscript submission to the *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, *American Journal of Evaluation Research*, or *The Foundation Review*). The student research assistants will be co-authors on all academic works resulting from this project.
- Through a written report and oral presentation to the McCune Foundation and co-sponsors of the organizing training. Students will be co-authors and co-presenters for these activities.
- Through a proposal submitted to the annual SAGE Student Research Conference.

**Project Timeline**

Even though reassigned time is requested for the 2017-2018 academic year, some groundwork will be laid in Spring 2017, when the proposer completes the IRB application and administers the baseline survey. The proposer will subsequently work with students throughout the 2017-2018 academic year on the following tasks:

- August to September 2017: Provision of training to students on developing interview protocols, crafting recruitment materials, and conducting interviews
- October 2017: Provision of training to students on using Qualtrics for data collection; working with students to send out invitations and schedule interviews
- November to December 2017: Working with students on administering the follow-up survey via Qualtrics between 11/1/2017-11/30/2017; supervising students on conducting interviews with community organizations
- January to March 2018: Working with students on transcribing the interviews and performing thematic analysis on interview data; training and mentoring students on analyzing survey data using SPSS; assisting students in developing a proposal to submit to the annual SAGE Student Research Conference
- March to June 2018: Working with students on creating the report and presentation for the McCune Foundation and drafting conference/journal submissions

**Project Assessment**

The success of this project will be assessed by the (1) delivery of a written report and oral presentation to the McCune Foundation and training co-sponsors, (2) submission of a presentation proposal to the SAGE Student Research Conference, (3) submission of manuscripts to professional conferences or journals in the areas of communication, evaluation, or non-profit sector research.

**Budget**

As outlined in the study timeline, the proposed project requires the faculty member to invest considerable time each week throughout the 2017-2018 academic year to train and mentor students on data collection and analysis, and on crafting professional and academic reports. The requested budget is therefore for 3WTU of reassigned time (i.e. $6,000) for the 2017-2018 academic year to help the proposer effectively work with student research assistants. Should the request be granted, the proposer would ideally like to take the course release in Fall 2017, but
she will work with her program to make a final decision about the appropriate semester to take this course release.

References
Research and Development Minigrants for 2017-2018: Review Form

Routing Step: Initial Committee Review

Application Title: Assessing Community Organizing Capacity and Interorganizational Collaboration Among Grassroots Organizations in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties

Application ID: #000063

Review Deadline: Jan 27, 2017 11:59:00 PM

*Project Goals and Outcomes:

The proposal sets clear goals and outcomes for the project, and it explains the steps that will be taken to realize project goals.

--

Rating Scale 1 (1 weakest to 11 strongest):

--

*Research Plan and Methodology:

The proposal conveys a complete and well thought-out plan for the project that describes the activities of all individuals involved in the project. If support is requested for student research assistance, the proposal must also include a description of their role in the project and how the faculty

--

Rating Scale 2 (1 weakest to 11 strongest):

--

*Professional Development Benefits for the Faculty:

The proposed makes clear how the project will advance each individual applicant’s or research, scholarship, creative activity, or innovation in teaching. The proposal discusses whether the applicant(s) intend to pursue external funding and identifies those external funding opportunities.

--

Rating Scale 3 (1 weakest to 11 strongest):

--
**Project Benefits:**

To what extent does the proposed qualify for special consideration (e.g., applicant is probationary, applicant has not had minigrant funding in the past, applicant has been especially successful in the use of past minigrant funding, project scope is particularly ambitious but realizable).

---

**Rating Scale 4 (1 weakest to 11 strongest):**

---

**Dissemination Plans:**

The level and type of dissemination is appropriate for the project, its goals, and its outcomes.

---

**Rating Scale 5 (1 weakest to 11 strongest):**

---

**Project Timeline:**

The project goals and objectives are attainable within the timeline of the proposal.

---

**Rating Scale 6 (1 weakest to 11 strongest):**

---

**Project Assessment:**

The proposal describes how the product(s) of the project will be assessed and evaluated to determine the degree of success achieved.

---

**Rating Scale 7 (1 weakest to 11 strongest):**

---

**Project Budget:**

The proposed budget is reasonable in the context of the project description, and the project costs are necessary to achieve project goals and outcomes.
*Other considerations:

To what extent does the proposed qualify for special consideration (e.g., applicant is probationary, applicant has not had minigrant funding in the past, applicant has been especially successful in the use of past minigrant funding, project scope is particularly ambitious but realizable).