

**Assessment of Non-Academic Outcomes (Fall 2003 and Spring 2004)**

Please provide the information below about how your unit assesses the extent to which it meets its expected outcomes. If you need assistance, please contact Dr. Virginia Wheelless at 565-2085 or on Groupwise email. This information is due in the Planning Office no later than February 2, 2004 and will be updated annually.

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**Unit:** Applied Cultural Anthropology Research Center

**Date:** 2/2/04

**Person Completing the Information:** Tyson Gibbs, Ph.D

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**I. Mission:** The complexity of social interactions, caused by increased inter-cultural and cross-cultural engagements, requires new and innovative strategies from program development and technology transfer. Organizations need additional ideas expertise and experienced personnel to increase their prospects for success in designing strategies for reaching multi-cultural populations. The staff of the ACARC use an applied holistic approach to resolve issues caused by misunderstandings resulting from differences in cultural communication and behavior. While the foundation model used derives from anthropology, specialists from a wide variety of disciplines will be brought to together, as necessary, to make the Center’s activities holistic.

**II. Previous Evaluations of the Unit:** N/A

### **III. Statement of Expected Outcomes:**

To produce:

- Project demonstrations
- Service learning testing
- Community demonstrations
- Improved technology transfer and acceptance
- Enhanced social service planning
- Improved communications
- Response to social research methods
- Improved cultural diversity planning
- Strategies for cross-cultural negotiations
- Strengthened inter- and cross-cultural program implementation.

**IV. Measuring Expected Outcomes:** This center will use the Responsive Approach to Evaluation, as stated in the book *How to Focus an Evaluation* by Brian M. Stecher and W.A. Davis (1987). This approach “tries to understand the program from the various points of view of its constituents, and proceeds to inform each group by expanding its view of the program. This approach assumes that each of the groups associated with a program understands and experiences it differently and has a valid perspective. The evaluator does not attempt to define the scope of the evaluations narrowly before collecting data; instead, he or she responds to issues and concerns as they arise and are identified by clients.”

### **V. Use of Assessment Results:**

Describe how the results of the assessments described in *N* above are shared with staff in the unit? How are the results used to improve the unit? Help improve student learning? Enhance student development? Meet the university's vision?

Faculty in the Department of Anthropology meet monthly to discuss various components of our Program. It is our plan to include any and all assessments of the ACARC in these discussions. Additionally, we meet once a year in retreat to discuss issues that impact the Department. The ACARC is a part of these deliberations, and any and all assessments that have occurred in the previous year will be placed on the agenda for the retreat.

The results of any and all assessments of the ACARC will be used to improve our services to our clients. Because we are using a Responsive Approach to Evaluation, our assessment of how well the Center delivers services will come from our client satisfaction surveys. We will allow the client to use their own measures of our service delivery, or we will develop a survey and use interviews to assess how well clients receive our services.

Student learning will be improved to the extent that the projects have impact on our curricula, student research activities, or student cooperation educational activities. Where possible, faculty in our Department will involve students in our research and service delivery activities with clients of the Center. As participants in the services offered through the Center, students gain experience in research techniques, providing deliverables to clients, importance of meeting deadlines and understanding how to develop service delivery proposals.

Our Center meets the Vision of the University through its focus on developing partnerships with the corporations, non-profit organizations and communities located in the Dallas Metroplex. The message is promoted, through the services offered in the Center, of the UNT's concern for the issues impacting the North Texas Region.

**VI. Changes Made Based on Assessment Results:**

This is a new assessment program to be used in the future.

**Signature of Person Completing the Form:**

**Date Signature of Unit Head after Reviewing the Form:**