

INSTITUTE ON THE
ENVIRONMENT

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM

MINI GRANT PROJECT SUMMARY

Please complete the project summary and return the completed form to April Snyder, Associate Administrator for the Institute on the Environment at aprilsnyder@umn.edu. Paper copies will not be accepted. Please also attach any photos, publications, brochures, event agendas or other materials that were a result of the mini grant summary.

Date of Report Submission:	3/25/15
Project PI & Dept/School	Kate Knuth, Institute on the Environment
Project Title:	University-wide Boreas Booyah
Grant Amount \$:	\$2,650

Project Context & Purpose

Please include the original project purpose statement and revise for any changes that occurred in the project after the start date with a short explanation of the changes.

The university-wide Boreas Booyah will bring together students from across the university to prepare and enjoy stew. The booyah will be used to facilitate the development of cross-disciplinary relationships, and booyah programming will focus on environmental solutions.

The university-wide Boreas booyah is expected to make several impacts related to the development of environmental leadership and interdisciplinary relationships at the UMN.

Create a focal point and cultural tradition for environmental leadership development across disciplines: The cultural traditions of the UMN such as academic units, professional conferences and even the lay-out of the campus make interdisciplinary collaboration around environmental issues challenging. The booyah could potentially become a powerful tradition in creating a culture of support around interdisciplinary work and environmental leadership at the UMN.

Foster and deepen cross-disciplinary and cross-community relationships: Interdisciplinary work takes openness to learning from many diverse perspectives as well as trusting relationships between people from different disciplines. The university-wide booyah will bring people together around a tradition that is not part of academic culture. The event will create a creative, welcoming space for people to explore, develop and work on environmental solutions from many disciplinary perspectives.

Leverage the success and organization of Boreas: Boreas is in its third year of programming and has served hundreds of students from across the university. Boreas has a core group of engaged students, and is looking to expand its impact across the UMN. Boreas has networks and skills to draw from, but is still young and flexible enough as a program to use the booyah to improve and strengthen its programming. The impact of the booyah will potentially continue over months and years because of the institutional support of Boreas

Work Completed

Please provide a summary of the work that was completed for the mini grant project.

The Big Boreas Booya (name changed since IonE mini grant application) was held on October 10, 2014. The event brought together the Boreas community, University Dining Services, booya experts, and community leaders for a successful first-time Big Booya.

Much of the work of the booya was in the event planning and preparation. This work required developing relationships with many other university entities, in particular University Dining Services, as well as people who could help with making the booya. The Boreas Student Advisory Team was also a key part of planning the event, coming up with ideas for organizing the event and helping to implement. This planning took place over much of the summer, and it included many meetings and connections with university staff, students, and community leaders. We also worked to secure funding from two additional funders as well as in-kind support from several community businesses.

In addition to event preparation and planning, work to promote the event was an important part of the grant. An event poster as well as several blog posts were part of the work of the grant. A pre-event blog post is [here](#), a link to the event agenda and logistics is [here](#), and a follow-up summary post is [here](#).

The event began at 8:30 a.m. on October 10 and ran through the day until 6 p.m. During this time, work to prepare and cook the booya happened as well as several events creating interactions among participants. Events included breakfast, a brown bag lunch, celebrity stirrers, an environmental leaders panel, a collaborative creative project, and the serving of the booya itself. A picture of the booya conversation and a picture of the collaborative creative project are attached to the email.

Partnerships & Collaborations

Please provide a summary of the project personnel, partnerships and collaborations that worked directly on the project or were started as a direct result of the mini grant project.

The project lead was Kate Knuth, with logistical support from Molly Buss and Meagan Hume, and event support from Jan Gerstenberger. Additionally, several members of the Boreas Student Advisory Team were part of making the event a success. University Dining Services were a key partner in the event, and we worked directly with University Executive Chef Scott Pampuch as well as Alyssa Lundberg. These partners will hopefully continue into a second Big Booya.

In order to actually cook the booya, we developed relationships with key community partner. Ron and Marianne Flor, long-time booya cooks and experts, lent their booya kettle for cooking and stayed all day at the event to assist with cooking. In addition, approximately 10 community leaders were at the booya and interacted with students in various ways. Two community groups, the Bush Foundation and Evergreen Energy/District Energy provided monetary support for the event, and several businesses provided in-kind food donations.

As part of following up from the booya, participants were asked in a survey about connections made. Three-quarters of participants reported meeting someone new, and two-thirds reconnected with someone at the booya.

Project Outcomes & Impacts

Please provide a summary of the outcomes and /or impacts of the mini grant project including future plans for the project.

Original Goals and Objectives	Progress on Goals and Objectives
<p>The first Big Boreas Booya had goals in three areas: food, attendance, and connections.</p> <p>Food: Cook booya on-campus in the traditional way, drawing on skills of experienced booya-cookers and developing connections with University Dining Services</p> <p>Attendance: The Big Boreas Booya was designed to bring together a large group of people from around campus and in the community. We measured success based on numbers, campus diversity (colleges) and community connections.</p> <p>Connections Made: The Big Boreas Booya was ultimately about connecting people. We planned measured connections based on new emails on our list (representing new potential participants), program participation, and coverage of the event at the UMN.</p>	<p>We successfully made progress and reached our goals around food. Cooking and serving booya in a traditional 30-gallon cast-iron kettle over a wood fire in the middle of campus took a lot of coordinating and connecting across the campus and community. Our team, with the help of experienced booya-cookers and the University Dining Services, made this happen.</p> <p>We had about 85 people sign into the booya, and estimate over 100 people attended this event. Seven colleges of the university were represented, as well as the Institute on the Environment and University Extension. We also had numerous community attendees and a handful of alumni. Our attendance numbers were lower than we had hoped, but higher than any event we have ever hosted. The diversity of University campuses came near to our goal, and we had strong representation from community people.</p> <p>Attendees at the booya connected with each other. Of the people who filled out follow-up survey, over 3/4s connected with someone new and 2/3s reconnected with someone. People also understood the booya was about connecting people. The booya got strong promotion via university email networks, and a UMN Daily (newspaper) reporter visited the booya, though did not write an article about it. We struggled to get big booya attendees to propose new weekly booya ideas, but we have managed to do this in other ways. We got very positive feedback about the format we used to connect student booya attendees with the community leaders we had as panelists.</p>

In addition to the above goals and objectives, the Big Boreas Booya had several other impacts. The event stretched Boreas staff and participants past their comfort zone for events and instigated key connections across the UMN. These connections have helped to raise the profile of Boreas at the University. With the success of cooking booya, bringing together the Boreas community for a large event, and experimenting with a new event format, Boreas learned a lot. Currently, Boreas is planning to host a second-annual booya in fall of 2015.