



Henry Ford Community College

Technology Investment Fund

Progress Summary

NAME OF PROJECT DIRECTOR		DEPARTMENT/DIVISION
Steve Glazer		Ceramics/Fine Arts/Fine Arts And Fitness
CURRENT DATE	SEMESTER GRANT AWARDED	PROGRESS REPORT STATUS
9-14-2012	Winter 2011	[] Interim [X] Final

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: *A brief summary of the project.*

Purchase and installation two new gas fired kilns to replace two old gas fired kilns that were deemed unfit to use. Along with this there were upgrades to the room to meet current safety requirements. The project also funded the purchase of a number of "new technology" Advancer kiln shelves.

ITEMS PURCHASED: *Please indicate how you spent the funds allocated to you. Where are items purchased currently being used? (Attach separate sheet if necessary.)*

\$40,000 for 2 Geil Downdraft DBL-18 kilns with Microprocessor based programmable controllers.
 \$20,000 for 84 Advancer kiln shelves
 \$35,000 for facility upgrades to accommodate new kilns and safety requirements

OUTCOMES EXPECTED: *What were the outcomes/goals expected from the project as listed in your original proposal?*

1. Our gas fired kilns we be equipped with the latest safety devices available.
2. All of the work that students produce will now able to be fired in a timely manner.
3. The gas kilns at HFCC will be of the latest in current technology, and therefore, offer students the ability to learn what the current industry "standard."
4. The new kilns shelves will last much longer than the older style ones would.

PROJECT EVALUATION: *Please summarize how the project was evaluated and the result of that evaluation. What evidence do you have that the outcomes/goals were or were not met? Please include data collected--questionnaire results, etc. Were there any benefits you may not have expected? Any liabilities? Please share any strengths and weaknesses of the proposed project--your honesty will be of help to others.*

As stated in the original proposal, since the (purchase and installation of the new kilns) is basically an upgrade of old (and archaic) equipment, one of the best demonstrations of the success of the project will be the smoothness in which the ceramics studio operates once the new equipment is installed and in use. In the regard, the outcome has been a total success as there has not any backlog of student work waiting to be fired. Furthermore, as stated in the first Expected Outcome, our kilns are now much safer then than the old ones were.

PROJECT EVALUATION, CONTINUED

We did have a learning curve with the firing of the kilns at first, but one of our Ceramic Technicians, Ms. Patty Goodell, attended a Geil workshop specifically designed to teach owners of these kilns how to use the microprocessor. (I did not attend as I was at a service learning conference, the Michigan Campus Compact, the same weekend.) As a result, we learned how easy it is to fire these kilns compared to the old ones, and we now have large posters on the wall detailing the firing process, step by step. Furthermore, the glazes on the fired ware are much more uniform than they ever were in the past. The later was a totally unexpected, but very desirable, outcome.

The new kilns shelves have worked as expected in they none have shown any signs of stress.

It is hard to say how much, or even whether or not, it is directly related having the new kilns, but there is an air of excitement in the ceramics room that I have not witnessed in my tenure at HFCC. There is a group of advanced students that seem to almost “live” in the studio, and they have taken part in numerous off campus activities to promote the program, and are planning a large sale for the end of the Fall 2012 semester. The interest level and dedication of these students is beginning to become contagious, and is now spreading to some of the beginners and second semester students.