

Sabbatical Proposal

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION VIDEO CAMPAIGN

I propose developing a 45-minute video as part of a community-wide campaign that will help parents, especially less acculturated parents, to converse with their teens about sex and relationships. The video will also teach young people, especially middle school students, the obstacles most young people face in pursuing a college degree. The video will be in Spanish with English subtitles and will be screened at Oxnard College, as well as various community venues throughout Oxnard College's service area. Parents will be invited to the screening where Oxnard College will provide them with teen pregnancy talking points as well as college access information.

The narrative film will be modeled after popular Spanish telenovelas as opposed to a documentary format. The narrative format will be more entertaining and appeal to a greater audience. Characters can be assigned certain traits that convey information about teen pregnancy prevention. For example, a father in the video can be a workaholic and ignore his daughter by not talking to her about sex and relationships. The daughter soon starts dating a young man with bad intentions. As the father gets more involved with his work, his daughter gets more involved with her boyfriend. Soon the daughter and her boyfriend are planning on having sex. The mother becomes suspicious and confronts her daughter. Soon the parents are more involved in their daughter's lives and a healthy dialogue follows. The video will be designed to spark healthy conversation between parents and teens, as well as education professionals and students.

The following topics will be addressed in the video:

- Teen Pregnancy
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Peer Pressure
- Parental Involvement
- College Access

As part of this campaign, I propose holding an event at Oxnard College, that would bring together young people and their parents; as well as education professionals. The event would be promoted through local high schools and radio stations.

Pre-Production – Production – Post Production

Pre-production will begin with a 45-page script. Leading teen pregnancy institutions, such as The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy will provide feedback from a social scientist perspective in order to make the script accurate. Upon completion of the script, I would hold regular “table reads” for the script with participation from TV students. I would then develop a storyboard and involve the students in workshops in order for them to understand shot selection. I will scout locations as well as cast the film with local actors. Every step will include students as production assistants and interns. Once the film gets into Production, a few students will be on-location and work alongside professional filmmakers. They will learn valuable film set protocol as well as the different departments and experts needed to make a film. In Post Production, I will edit the film alongside other students who will witness the film come together in the editing room. Once the film is edited, it will be color corrected in Los Angeles as well as go through an extensive audio mix by a professional Audio Designer.

Timeline

Duration	Stage	Action	Deadline
8 Weeks	Pre-Production:	Develop of a 45-page script	January 31, 2011
		Scout Location and Cast Film	Feburary 18, 2011
2 Weeks	Production:	On location shoot	March 7-18 2011
10 Weeks	Post-Production:	Editing, ADR, Audio Design, Music	March 28 – May 13 2011
4 Weeks		Event Planning: Screening, Recruitment, Promotion	May 23- June 17 2011
		Film Premiere at Oxnard PAC	September 10, 2011
24 Weeks			

Research

In 2009, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy issued a national report on the nation's teen pregnancy rate. Many social service and educational organizations took notice, especially the higher education community. According to the report, teen pregnancy is a leading cause of students not completing high school and not enrolling in college. As of 2006, three in 10 girls in the United States become pregnant before turning 20. Although recent awareness campaigns have minimized the teen pregnancy rate, the United States still has the highest rate of teen pregnancy among developed nations. Teen pregnancy affects every race, community, and economic group in our country. While the rates of teen pregnancy remain high among all racial and ethnic groups, at present more than half **(53%) of Latina teens get pregnant at least once before age 20—nearly twice the national average.** This last statistic is impressive given that approximately 70% of Oxnard College's service area is made up of Latinos.

Oxnard Community

Approximately, over half of all Latina teens in Oxnard are pregnant before the age of 20. This has a dramatic effect on Oxnard College because, 69% of Latina teen mothers never finish high school and only 2% of all teens that have a baby before age 18 ever graduate from college. In addition, the children of teen parents are more likely to face a number of disadvantages, including poverty and health problems, than children of mothers who are at least 21 years old when they have their first child.

Although many Latino teens recognize that pregnancy could negatively affect their ability to reach their goals, a continued focus on primary prevention seems necessary to ensure that teens are not faced with the challenges of a too-early pregnancy and parenthood. For some teens, increased emphasis on the consequences of a pregnancy might provide the motivation they need to focus on prevention and stay in school.

Teen pregnancy is a college access issue. What good are financial aid options and early SAT test, if a majority of Latina teens are getting pregnant and dropping out of high school? Even if they push forward and enroll in college many will eventually become overwhelmed by the demands of being a single-mother and drop out of college. Just 3% of mothers who are 18 or 19 when their first child is born attain a college degree by age 30. It's apparent that additional support and guidance is needed to successfully provide young Latinos with a clear understanding on how to avoid early pregnancy and continue their education. Ironically, more than eight in ten Latino teens (84%) and nine in ten Latino parents (91%) surveyed believe that graduating from college or university

11/1/2010

2nd Draft

or having a promising career is the most important goal for a teen's future. Only 3% of Latino teens and 2% of Latino parents said starting a family was the most important goal for the future. Therefore, it is vital that Oxnard College confront teen pregnancy by helping our community understand the consequences of teen pregnancy.

Oxnard College would benefit from this film by being recognized as a community college that addressed this important topic. Eventually, this film would be a wonderful recruitment resource for the college.

Our community will benefit from putting this important topic at the forefront. A healthy dialogue is needed in order to educate parents and young people about teen pregnancy prevention. When it comes to decisions about sex, parents are most influential to teens. Like their peers in other racial and ethnic groups, Latino teens report that their parents influence their decisions about sex more than other sources, including friends, teachers, religious leaders, the media and Internet, siblings, and other family members. Latino teens who live in homes in which English and Spanish are spoken equally are particularly likely to report their parents as the biggest influence on their decisions about sex.

Latino teens of all ages say parents most influence their decisions about sex. Still, most Latino teens and parents agree that when it comes to talking about sex and related issues, parents don't always know what to say to their children, how to say it, or when to start. This indicates that although Latino parents are discussing these topics, particularly sex and relationships, with their children, they need better resources to improve the quality of these conversations.

As a faculty member in Film and Television it is important to stay current on technology. In making this film, I would utilize the latest in high definition equipment and provide the Oxnard College Television Department with a list of industry standard equipment. I would retool my craft and learn the current film making best methods and practices. I would also work with industry professionals, such as Audio Technicians and Post Production Editors and share my acquired knowledge with my students. Students would benefit from my experience because I would teach them the film making process; from idea to fulfillment.

Cost

The film would cost approximately thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to produce. Currently, I am in communication with The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, a non-profit company in Washington DC, and they are ready to contribute thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to this film.

Reporting Methods

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy will develop a pre-screening test to accurately assess knowledge comprehension of the film. The pre-screening test will ask the audience members about how to communicate effectively to teens, as well as statistics on teen pregnancy. After the film, a post-screening test will be given using the same questions used in the pre-screening test. Based on the accuracy of the post-screening test, we will be able to derive a comprehension rate for Latino parents and their children. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy will use its networking resources to distribute the film nationally.

Expected Results

First and foremost this film will be a lab for the advanced students in the Film and Television Program at Oxnard College. Students will help in the production of the film and be compensated for their work. They will serve in various aspects of production, from location sound, to production assistant work. It is my intent to mentor the students and teach them up-to-date production skills.

The 45-minute educational film will also educate Latino parents and their children in the Oxnard College service area about teen pregnancy. The message will be one of family unity and healthy communication.

The film will be screened at Oxnard College after being heavily promoted at local high schools, via radio, and Oxnard College Television.

Professional Development

As part of my sabbatical, I propose taking Media Psychology at UCLA Extensions. This course encompasses an analysis of the psychological impact of evolving media content and presentation--from traditional pictures, sounds, and graphics to new interactive and digital media. Students gain an understanding of the specific benefits of understanding human behavior when working with media applications, how media affects individuals and cultures, and how media can be used for socially constructive purposes. This class would help me better understand the screenwriting process and also compliment TV430 that I completed in the Summer of 2008. The cost for this class is approximately \$695 dollars.

Criteria for Sabbatical

As an educator and a filmmaker with over almost twenty years of experience, I have always looked for ways to use film and television as an educational tool. Early in my career, I began to research and develop effective ways to

communicate complex ideas in a simple story structure. As a faculty member in Film and Television at Oxnard College and a Media Developer, my goal has been to bridge knowledge gaps in higher education, as well as communicate with a diverse community. I enjoy helping our community acquire information, access resources, and navigate through the education system by using educational films. These educational films are based on advance Entertainment-Education Theory and modeled after popular Spanish telenovelas. The objective is to entertain and engage viewers by presenting valuable information in a familiar format that is supportive and accurately portrays the daily challenges that many families face in our own communities, especially Latinos. This is my first sabbatical request, and I want to use the time to create an educational campaign that uses film to not only involve television students at Oxnard College, also to help families throughout our service area understand the consequences of teen pregnancy and the value of higher education.