

## **The National Council of the Education for the Ceramic Arts, March 2022**

### **Faculty and Staff Development Fund Final Report**

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Part 1: A description of the activity and how it impacted student learning and success/your job/UHMC.

I attended the conference for three days and participated in a variety of lectures, discussions, demonstrations and exhibitions with the intention of bringing back the knowledge to UHMC, for my students, the studio and to help me as a teacher and studio manager. My students, and colleagues (in particular operations and maintenance) are becoming more aware of the importance of safety and health concerns in a ceramic studio. I am able to have a clearer vision on what is possible and important to have in a studio to keep it safer and allow for ease in production. As I become more aware of innovative ceramic techniques and the current contemporary conceptual themes, I am inspired as an artist and I am able to share this. In particular I attended a glaze panel discussion where I was able to ask questions specific to solving glaze problems we frequently encounter in our studio and learn of other problems/solutions that other instructors and ceramic artists encounter. For students interested in running a ceramic studio and business, I attended a discussion with a variety of suggestions to make this successful.

Part 2: A description of how the knowledge and experience were shared.

I am passing on health and safety information to the students such as: how to use specific chemicals safely, the dangers of chemical volatilization during kiln firings and emphasizing silica particle concerns. I have also met with the head of Operations and Maintenance to discuss short term and long-term solutions to make the studio safer and energy efficient. Such ideas include: rearranging the room to allow for easier clean up, where students and janitors work together; the possibility of a ventilation system for airborne silica particles in the studio and glaze chemical room, and a vent for volatized chemicals, in the kiln room; sectioning off the kiln room so that the kilns could be fired while students are using the studio.

I created a power point presentation of innovative contemporary works showing students the current progressive themes in ceramic arts, expressing needs for equality and belonging; and I have a couple demonstrations of a new techniques I learned, which involve creating facets on wheel thrown pottery. I was given material samples from vendors to share with my classes. We are now experimenting with a variety of chemicals to improve our glaze recipes for our new gas kiln; to make glazes more homogeneous before application and to create stronger effects from the reduction atmosphere, such as deeper reds and carbon trapping. I am sharing with the student assistants, new tips on keeping the studio organized and running more efficient. While I attended over 15 lectures/discussions, the knowledge I brought back will continue to spread through this semester and especially as I revise my course curriculum for the following semesters. I met with a well-known ceramic artist who is interested in coming to UHMC as a visiting artist and to help me construct a small soda kiln. Several students are planning to attend the conference with me next year and I had one with me this time.