

Proposal for Seminar “The Public Face of Humanities: Engaging Communities”  
Submitted by Dr. Darrel Elmore, English (October 5, 2019)

Dear Ana Menendez:

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the upcoming seminar presentation with the Humanities Edge Program! It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my proposal entitled “Charity Basketball Tournaments: Students of English Classes Partnering with Biscayne Bay Wellness and Recreation.” Over the past three years, students in my Professional and Technical Writing Course, ENC 3213, have developed writing, speaking, and organizational skills while planning, promoting, and executing annual basketball tournaments, with proceeds going to various non-profit organizations of the students’ choosing.

In 2017, we raised \$300 for victims of Hurricane Maria with our Hoops for Humanity tournament. Last year, in 2018, we raised \$1,400 for FIU veterans with our Hoops for Heroes event. This year, we are preparing for our November 9 contest, Hoops for Hope, which will benefit the Lotus House women’s shelter.

These events have engaged students by allowing them to develop expertise in areas of their choice: some students worked to promote the events on social media; some wrote emails and letters to clients; others documented the events through photography and video. Students learned the true meaning of teamwork, as these events have always depended heavily on collaboration – amongst our class – as well as with our client organization and BBC Wellness and Recreation.

Collaboration presents many challenges, of course! The logistics of keeping an event organized while everyone has varied roles – especially when deadlines and unforeseen circumstances arise! – can be quite daunting. However, the students’ passion for learning and helping others has always allowed us to overcome any obstacles we have faced along the way.

In short, these tournaments have helped us reach the following goals of the public humanities: develop a keen awareness of social issues facing the South Florida community, focus on writing to learn real-world skills, and foster a strong sense of community that reaches beyond classroom walls.

Thank you for reviewing this submission.

Best,

