For Immediate Release

Utah Humanities Project Gains National Recognition, Wins Schwartz Prize

National Federation of State Humanities Council Honors Utah for Public Humanities

Salt Lake City, Utah, November 3, 2014 – The Utah Humanities Council received the Helen and Martin Schwartz Award at the 2014 National Humanities Conference November 2 in Philadelphia, PA. The prestigious award is given annually to up to three programs for innovative programs that have had a significant impact on citizens, organizations, or communities in their states.

Jean Cheney, Associate Director of The Utah Humanities Council, and Director of the Clemente Course in the Humanities accepted the award on behalf of the Utah Humanities Council and everyone involved with the project.

For more information on the Schwartz Prize, click here.

Read about the We Are One Project, as an outgrowth of our Clemente Course in the Humanities, and watch the We Are One video documentary.

About the We Are One Project: In March of 2014, as an outgrowth of the Clemente Course at East High, an interdisciplinary humanities course for underserved students, Clemente students turned their school “inside out.” Although East High School is now 63% “minority” with Latino, Pacific Islander, Asian, and African American students and student refugees from around the world in its classrooms, many in Salt Lake still imagine the school as it used to be—predominantly white. The Clemente students wanted to show East High’s true face to the world and help students come together “as one.” Photographer Trisha Empey and art history teacher Jorge Rojas led the project.

About the Clemente Course in the Humanities: The Clemente Course is an accredited interdisciplinary humanities course for underserved 10th and 11th grade students. Taught primarily by college professors, the course is intellectually rigorous, focusing on significant multicultural works using primary documents, group discussion, writing, and group projects as the basis for learning, and is consistent with Utah’s new Common Core curriculum. The pilot course is in its second year at East High School in Salt Lake City.

Led by Utah Humanities, the Clemente Course is a community partnership involving East High, the University of Utah Honors College, Westminster College, and University Neighborhood Partners. All partners contribute funding to the project. Utah Humanities has received major support from Alternative Visions, a fund of the Chicago Community Trust, to offer Clemente in Utah.

About The Utah Humanities Council: The Utah Humanities Council empowers Utahns to improve their communities through active engagement in the humanities. UHC is funded through gifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations, the Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts, and Parks Fund, the State of Utah, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Each year, the Council makes possible hundreds of educational and cultural programs throughout Utah. For more information, visit www.utahhumanities.org or www.facebook.com/utahhumanitiescouncil.

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