

Green Fund Project Final Report

This report may be published on the SIU sustainability website.

Project Title: Lactation Accommodation Space

Project ID #: 16SP112

Award Date: April 2016

Completion Award: \$20,200

Total Funds Used: \$14,211.58

1. Please provide a write up of your project/project experience.

This project entailed the development of a new Mother's Room/Lactation Space for the SIU Carbondale campus. The space is centrally located on campus in Morris Library. Overall, the experience was a strong collaborative/cooperative effort between a number of campus entities including the School of Architecture, the labor union, Plant Service Operations, Non-Traditional Student Services, and Morris Library. The development process was complex at times and required input from a number of key entities and individuals but, in all, everyone working on the project was very supportive and dedicated to moving the Lactation Space forward, ensuring its success. Despite a few setbacks here and there, the construction ran smoothly and the project held its Grand Opening on April 3, 2017. The six students participating in the project from the School of Architecture were able, through two semesters of independent study (and a couple extra months of volunteering), to have the unique experience of working on a real project with a number of invested partners. Their hard work and effort throughout the process was essential for its success.

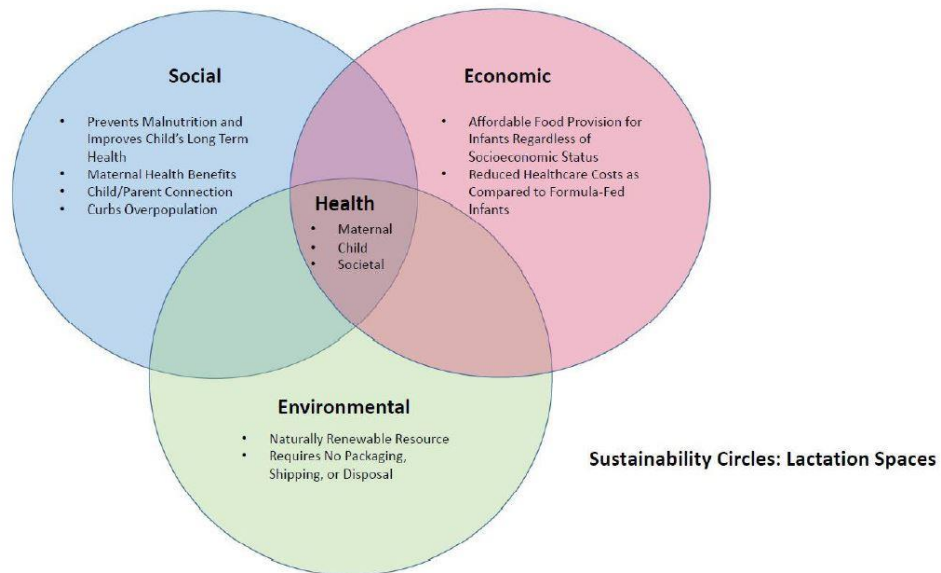
Students were at the heart of the project from the beginning with the initial project idea stemming from an SIU Community Nutrition Class assignment in 2014. In addition to student learning and experiences throughout the project, we trust that this space will provide a long-lasting resource for student parents pursuing their education, and for faculty, staff, or community members who are visiting campus and are nursing mothers. Adding the campus lactation space to other family-friendly campus resources sets SIU apart as not only family-friendly, but progressive in providing spaces that promote and provide opportunity for accessing and engaging in sustainable practices.

2. Please provide a summary of your results (environmental, social, and/or economic) including quantifiable data as appropriate (ex. # of individuals reached, lbs. diverted from landfill, energy saved, etc.).

As provided in the original Green Fund proposal's Sustainability Circle (see image below), the lactation space will have ongoing results as the room is utilized for years to come. Prior to the room's opening, library staff were already receiving inquiries about its availability. Not only will the room support maternal health benefits and child/parent connection, but the economic benefits for students include an affordable food source and can reduce health care costs for infants. Environmentally, having a lactation space available increases the likelihood that breastfeeding mother's returning to school, work, or just visiting campus will continue

breastfeeding as the space minimizes barriers. Overall the combined social, economic, and environmental benefits result in overall health benefits for the mother, the child, and for society as a whole.

Appendix G
Sustainability Circle: Lactation Spaces



- Summarize how your project promoted the Green Fee/Sustainability on campus including, but not limited to, flyers created, screenshots of website, signage, etc. Please include website links, if applicable.

The Green Fee/Sustainability was promoted throughout the project in a number of ways. During the project build, a poster displayed on the space's exterior included the purpose of the project, those involved, and the funding source – the Green Fund. Now that the project is complete, the library's directional signs have been updated to include the lactation space. In addition, signage at the space's entrance includes the Green Fund marker.

Participants at the fall 2016 ASA Multidisciplinary Research Symposium also learned of the project and the Green Fund through a presentation developed by Chad Schwartz, Laura Morthland, and Deborah Barnett. We also presented a poster at the 2017 Interior Design Educators Conference about this project, which won best poster of the Conference. We have had articles in the Daily Egyptian as well as other pieces through University Communications (see link below) about the design/build process. Photos and other printed materials from the project are also on display in one of the exterior display windows in Quigley Hall.

University Communications Article: <http://news.siu.edu/2017/03/033017SIUToday-LactationRoom.php>

- Is there anything you would do differently if you were to do a similar project in the future? If so, please describe.

Not necessarily. The project was large and involved a great deal of collaboration and communication. Although there were challenges along the way, the time invested was well worth the result.

5. Please attach a minimum of 5 digital images –these will be images used to promote interest in sustainability projects on campus. These can be photos of the progress of the project or the completed project.

See attached.

6. Optional: Do you have any suggestions for the SIU Sustainability Council to improve the Green Fund Award Process?

The process is easy to follow and information is readily available. We appreciate being selected for a Green Fund Award and the opportunity to move forward with this project. Without the Green Fund, this project and the student learning, collaborative opportunities, and lasting relationships resulting from the project would not have been possible. Thank you!