

Allison E. Fagan, Associate Professor of English
Coordinator, Latin American, Latinx, and Caribbean Studies Minor

1. The goal of the grant was to fund the reading, research, and collaboration needed to launch a new course on Immigrants and Refugees in American Literature, which included a community engagement component working with student members of the Shenandoah Valley Scholars' Latino Initiative (SVSLI).
2. The course was launched successfully as an Honors section of ENG 221 in Spring 2019, including the planned collaboration with SVSLI, in which students produced digital narratives mapping important journeys in their lives.
3. The grant was invaluable to my teaching. The stipend enabled me to focus my attention on preparing for the course, taking time to work with community members, faculty members, and JMU Libraries staff who supported the development of the assignment. In turn, the class I taught strengthened my skills in developing and implementing assignments with a focus on digital literacies and digital storytelling.
4. The grant and the course I taught as a result absolutely sparked new ideas, both for revising the course and the assignment to fine-tune aspects as a result of some of the challenges we encountered, and for new projects that build out of these kinds of collaborations on the topic of storytelling with and about the local community. I've already moved toward building a new engaged learning course with a podcast at its center, and I hope to apply for a grant for this when I am eligible.