

**Grant for Excellence in Teaching & Learning**  
**Jaime Martinez, PhD (History), and Jamie Myers Mize, PhD (History and American Indian Studies)**

The Grant for Excellence in Teaching & Learning supported an project incorporating active learning in archival settings in support of classes in Civil War and Reconstruction and Southeastern American Indian history in the Fall 2018 semester. The two classes went on three research trips to the North Carolina State Archives, the Library of Virginia, and the South Carolina State Archives. At these repositories, students collected primary sources that they utilized to create research posters. Dr. Martinez's students created posters on the participation of Southeastern Indian peoples in the Civil War, and Dr. Mize's students created posters examining the Southeast Indian slave trade.

The impact of these trips on the two courses went well beyond three days and a single assignment. Drs. Martinez and Mize dedicated class periods to preparing the students for their trips reviewing, among other things, effective ways to utilize archival websites to search collections. After trips, Drs. Martinez and Mize facilitated the students' analysis of archival sources acquired. Students were also exposed to the relevant historiographies for their research topics and discussed effective means of presenting scholarly research to public audiences. After analyzing the individual sources, students then identified appropriate themes in their source base and put a number of sources in conversation together.

All of these acts of doing history culminated in student-produced, evidence-based arguments, which contributed to the scholarly understanding of their respective topics. Students presented their interpretations during two poster sessions: an in-class final in December 2018 and during a session at the Southeast Indian Studies Conference in March 2019. Student projects were given to UNCP's Museum of the Southeast Indian and will be incorporated by museum staff in future exhibits and presentations, as well as in their contributions to a proposed new history center at the Fort Fisher State Historic Site. In addition to contributing to the interpretations of our museum and possibly a state museum, the Southeastern American Indian history research was utilized again in Spring 2019 during Dr. Mize's Indian Slavery in Colonial America course. Lastly, Dr. Mize utilized her students' findings in her own presentation at the Southeast Indian Studies Conference in March 2019, while Dr. Martinez is incorporating some of her students' research into an essay she is preparing for publication.