**Internationalization Grant Report**

**TO:** Graham Pike, Dean of International Education

**FROM:** Helene Demers, Department of Anthropology

**DATE**: December 31, 2011

**RE:** Internationalization Grant Funding Report (follow-up on report of expenditures submitted November, 2011)

My heartfelt thanks to the committee for providing $3,000 to support a performance of the Puente Theater “Scene & Heard SCORED” project in Cowichan on Wednesday, October 12, 2011. The event was co-sponsored with the Cowichan Campus Student Services Department which covered partial payment of the rental of the Cowichan Theatre. The performance was a success and was attended by VIU Cowichan Campus students, staff and faculty as well as by community members. Admission was free for VIU students and by donation to community members. A total of $120 in donations was collected for the Annette DeRoux Cowichan Campus Student Emergency Fund.

It was a pleasure to be able to bring Scene and Heard SCORED to the Cowichan Campus and the community. The stories, music and films presented many different aspects of human emotions and creativity and emphasized cross-cultural understanding and our shared humanity. The performance was opened by Elder-in-residence, Florence James and Clinton Charlie, NITEP coordinator, provided a welcome to Cowichan territory as well as a humorous story about trees.

I have included a quote from Puente Theatre’s Director, Lina de Guevara:

As always, it was a great opportunity for PUENTE theatre to be able to present our work to the students and faculty of VIU University. Scene and Heard Scored exemplifies how PUENTE stages cultural diversity, by bringing together a unique mixture of storytelling, film and music from different continents. In this particular occasion, our performance was enhanced by the participation of First Nations Elder Florence, who welcomed us at the start of the show, and afterwards provided a moving ending by performing a traditional song of thanks in which she was joined by the audience. It was a special occasion, very meaningful for the public and also for the PUENTE performers.

If you require further information, please feel free to contact me at helene.demers@viu.ca