

2019

DAVINCI FELLOW



NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

THE DAVINCI INSTITUTE

is organized exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes, more specifically to serve as an Oklahoma think tank whose mission is to promote a statewide creative renaissance through lectures, workshops, professional development, research and advocacy.

The DaVinci Institute funds creative projects among Oklahoma's higher education faculty. A \$1,000 grant is awarded to each DaVinci fellow to assist in completing their DaVinci proposal.



“Theatre, as an artistic discipline, requires applied learning and that is how I structure my theatre courses. Creating an environment where students feel comfortable to explore and experiment in front of one another and take artistic risks is critical from the start; so much of the earlier sequence of my courses utilizes forms of ensemble building with the participants. In the end, my goal is to reinforce the idea that theatre is a collaborative effort and all its individual artists rely on one another to create the final piece of art.”

~Chris Miller

CHRIS MILLER

NSU Associate Professor of Theatre

DaVinci Fellow Proposal:

Ensemble-based New Play Development in Oklahoma High Schools

Overview:

Mr. Miller's research and teaching focus is on theatre and film with a concentration in new script development. He received his Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Arizona State University where he studied under Marshall W. Mason, one of the founding members of Circle Repertory Theatre. The development of new work has become a cornerstone of NSU's theatre program as a means of cultivating an ensemble environment, so students view the whole production as something larger than the individual.

How the grant will be used:

Mr. Miller will use the grant toward a series of ensemble-based, new play development workshops for area high school students, as well as faculty, culminating in a showcase of new ten-minute plays created by area high schools at the Northeastern State University Theatre Festival.



“Theatre is an ephemeral art, meaning that it only exists in the moment that it happens and then it’s over. All we have left is ephemera, little artifacts that say this thing occurred. There’s nothing as electric as that live piece of theatre that hypnotizes an audience for that little bit of time and affects them, engages that sense of empathy (a thing we desperately need these days) and takes them on a journey.”

~Chris Miller



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For more information about the DaVinci Institute and Fellows, visit:
www.davinciok.org