I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS: What was done? What was learned?

The information provided in this section allows the awarding agency to assess whether satisfactory progress was made during the reporting period.

A. What were the major goals of the project?

List the major goals of the project as stated in the approved application or as approved by the agency, including the technological objectives of this effort. Describe the proposed technical approach to obtain those goals. If the application listed milestones/target dates for important activities or phases of the project, identify these dates and show actual completion dates or the percentage of completion. Generally, the goals will not change from one reporting period to the next and are unlikely to change during the final reporting period. However, if NEH approved changes to the goals during the reporting period, list the revised goals and objectives. Also explain any significant changes in approach or methods from the agency-approved application or plan.

- The Modesto Junior College Common Ground Project has two overriding goals:

  1) To discover more about the rich cultural and ethnic heritages of California’s Central Valley communities by analyzing extant academic scholarship as well as primary works of literature, art, film, music and other humanistic modes of expression that give a more complete understanding of the vibrant, complex cultural histories and identities of our often ignored and even maligned region.

  2) To share interdisciplinary insights and curricular innovation in this locally-ground approach to the humanities through regionally themed lectures, discussions, field experiences, cross-disciplinary teaching opportunities, a summative conference and an end-of-grant website so as to improve teaching and foment student retention.
c. **Host a regional symposium with a keynote speaker, multi-cultural curriculum workshops, and dissemination of the Common Ground interdisciplinary model.**

The end-of-grant cumulative conference occurred on October 21, 2016 in Modesto, California and was attended by 57 professors and administrators from Modesto Junior College, Bakersfield College, Mission College, Delta College, California State University Fresno, California State University Stanislaus, University of the Pacific, University of California Merced, University of California Berkeley, The National Steinbeck Center and El Teatro Campesino as well as regional community leaders, artists. *(The final report includes the one-day conference program and overview as evidence in the supplemental materials section.)*

d. **Develop a digital repository for resources and content that community college, university and even high school faculty can access.**

The final 27 curricular units are available for faculty and community use at our finalized website ([http://commonground.blogs.yosemite.edu/](http://commonground.blogs.yosemite.edu/)). The videos of all lectures are also available on the YouTube Channel of the Common Ground grant at ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVW4Hg3DNs4Ak6YPOuA_0vA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVW4Hg3DNs4Ak6YPOuA_0vA)). Finally, many of the curricular units have also been transitioned to Canvas (an online LMS) so that all faculty in the Yosemite Community College district, and most California community college instructors, can simply “plug” the completed unit into their existing online, hybrid and augmented courses.

All resources, including readings, discussion notes, photographs, lecture recordings, curricular modules, and other artifacts are electronically stored in a shared electronic system (DropBox) as a permanent, back-up digital archive.

e. **Develop a General Education Pathway/Minor Agreement with California State University, Stanislaus.**

Faculty from the California State University, Stanislaus in Turlock and Modesto Junior College have met several times and outlined topics for this pathway. The curricular work for Modesto Junior College’s portion of the pathway is complete and the community college is now waiting for California State University, Stanislaus faculty and its leadership to complete their articulation and programmatic agreements.

We have also been discussing a GE Pathway with an AA in the Humanities to transfer into a B.A at UC Merced and then a new M.A. Ethnic/Regional Studies degree to be offered at UC Merced.
Hopefully we can find a way to link the A.A. and B.A. and eventual M.A. (2+2+1) across institutions as part of the grant--seeking the proper support and release time to craft the academic, scholastic, programmatic and curricular components of this exciting project. Here are a few characteristics of the five-year A.A.-B.A.-M.A. pathway program we are beginning to discuss:

1) The curricular development will feature scholarship and research related to the Central Valley.

2) The program will include a service learning/internship component so students receive career development within the program. This will likely be a semester internship with one of our program partners.

3) Possible partnerships with UC Merced and MJC include other CSUs and UCs, and CCCs along with Yosemite Field and Baker Station; Yosemite and other community leadership programs: Parks and Forest services: Agro-industry and farming cooperatives; museums; non-profits; public service, utility and water agencies; cooperative extensions and the 4H.

4) The scholarship and research will be housed at the UC Merced Library and will include a push to digitization with GIS; Sparks Research Center, the Cooperative Extension Archive; CalSphere and DPLA.

f. **Deliver ten cross-disciplinary lectures in college classrooms based on project seminar themes.**

   Faculty who have participated in *Common Ground* seminars have presented lectures and worked collaboratively with students from humanities, philosophy and history courses as guest lecturers in the Fall 2016 semester.