Proyecta 100,000
Scholarship for Mexican Students 2015
PROPOSAL

Mercer County Community College (MCCC) is proposing to implement a four-week-long academic and cultural immersion program for 30 undergraduate students and teachers from Mexican public higher education institutions. The program will provide 96 academic hours of ESL instruction in addition to exposure to a variety of cultural experiences in New Jersey, New York, and Washington D.C.

Background:

MCCC is an open admissions, two-year community college located in Central New Jersey. It is accredited by Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSACS) and awards Associate of Science (AS), Associate of Applied Science (AAS), Associate of Arts (AA), and Associate of Fine Arts (AFA) degrees in over 65 disciplines.

MCCC is located in central New Jersey close to Princeton University and an easy train ride to New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC. Amtrak has a stop four miles from campus with rail access to the above cities, as well as other points along the East Coast. MCCC's shuttle bus and public transportation enable students to travel about independently as well as facilitating trips for various cultural experiences.

MCCC has two full-service campuses, one in suburban West Windsor and the other in New Jersey's capital city, Trenton. MCCC serves approximately 9,000 students each semester (fall and spring).

MCCC has a diverse student population: approximately 41% White, 23% African American, and 18% Hispanic. In addition, each year an average of 295 students enroll in ESL classes and approximately 125 international students from more than 50 different countries are taking courses each semester.

Proposed Academic Offering:

The Mexican students coming to MCCC will have the opportunity to study in a U.S. academic setting, improve their English skills via English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, and experience U.S. culture through visits to major U.S. cities. The students and teachers who participate in this proposed program will be better prepared through their acquired English language proficiency and cultural familiarization to work and study in the United States and to teach English to their fellow Mexican students at home. Participants will be divided into two cohorts, one for graduate students and one for teachers.

Participants will have structured weekly **ESL instruction**. Appropriate placement into ESL classes will be determined by students' TOEFL scores and/or their performance on the college's placement exam. ESL faculty assigned to this group will be specifically chosen and trained to accommodate the language needs of these English language learners. These ESL faculty will be bilingual in English and Spanish. Courses will be offered **each morning**, Monday through Thursday over the span of the program.

In addition, students will attend regularly scheduled **cultural seminars** on a variety of topics such as Technology in America, American culture, communication skills improvement, and career development. Each session will expose students to various cultural aspects of life in the

U.S. Participants will be expected to engage in dialogue in English with many opportunities to practice the English they are learning in morning ESL classes. Seminar presenters will be specifically attuned to understand the language needs of these English language learners. These seminars will be offered **every afternoon**, Monday through Thursday, over the span of the program.

In place of the afternoon seminars, the teacher-participant cohort will visit local public schools to observe how education is delivered to students ranging in age from 4-18. They will have the opportunity to talk to elementary, middle, and high school teachers and possibly observe classroom teaching.

A **cultural experience in surrounding cities** will be scheduled for **each Friday**. Students will be able practice their English skills and visit a variety of significant landmarks and museums, in four regional cities. In New York City, they will be taken to Wall Street, Central Park, Spanish Harlem, the Stature of Liberty, Times Square, and/or the Metropolitan Museum of Art among other sites. In Philadelphia, they will get to see the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, the US Mint, and/or the Philadelphia Art Museum. In Washington, D.C., students will visit the White House, the Capitol, the Smithsonian Museum and the Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and/or Martin Luther King monuments. And finally, in nearby Princeton, NJ students will visit the Institute for Advanced Study where Albert Einstein worked as well as Princeton University, one of the premier institutions of higher education in the world.

Personnel support:

Project Coordinator

The project coordinator will be responsible for directing all activities and experiences, including the details of the ESL instruction, the cultural seminars, the cultural excursions, housing arrangements, transportation, and meals. This individual will also run the opening orientation and closing session of the program. The coordinator will be the contact person in the event of an emergency.

Faculty Assistant

The Faculty Assistant will be responsible for all ESL curriculum content. This individual will teach the ESL classes and be responsible for ensuring that students successfully complete the ESL program. This person will accompany students to all cultural activities to ensure that they are adequately practicing the English learned in the classroom ESL training. The Faculty Assistant will be fluent in Spanish and English and act as an interpreter when needed.

Seminar speakers

Speakers presenting at the afternoon cultural seminars will be experts on the featured topic and will be responsible for the delivery of their weekly segment. Topics will include technology in America, American culture, communication skills improvement, and career development.

Peer-Mentors

MCCC students will act as peer mentors the Mexican program participants and be specifically trained for that task. They will be responsible for supporting their mentees and providing assistance as needed. Peer mentors will participate in the Friday cultural activities. They will also guide Mexican participants throughout the four week duration of the program offering a continuing partnership as an English speaker in a peer relationship.

Proposed Extra-curricular Activities:

In addition to the Friday visits to major U.S. cities, the proposed program will include weekly evening activities and cultural experiences. During their time at MCCC, the college is proposing a trip to at least one sporting event. Participants' time in the area coincides with many professional and college games, including soccer, baseball, football and basketball, some taking place locally and some in New York and Philadelphia.

Also, on three evenings each week, activities for participants may include: movie night at a local theater; game night where students will spend time at MCCC's gym or fields playing soccer, basketball, volleyball, or swimming; a trip to a local bookstore; and/or attendance at local festivals or outdoor concerts.

Saturdays and Sundays will be mostly independent periods for participants when they will have an opportunity to go to local shopping centers, church services, or take public transportation to destinations of their own choosing.

Finally, during their stay, students will be treated to at least three campus events in their honor. One event will be the opening orientation where they will be introduced to the program and the campus. A second event will be a cultural celebration. And the final event will be the closing ceremony where students will receive recognition for their participation in the program.

Proposed Housing, Meals, and Mentoring:

MCCC does not offer dormitory accommodations for its students, not uncommon for U.S. community colleges. MCCC proposes to house the Mexican students in a nearby Extended Stay America (or equivalent hotel facility) and shuttle them to and from campus each day via the campus shuttle bus. The rooms in the Extended Stay America in Princeton offer two beds and a fully-equipped kitchen. Continental breakfast is included. Students will have the opportunity to travel to nearby grocery stores to buy food, again via the campus shuttle.

Monday through Friday, lunches will be available at the campus cafeteria. Dinners and weekend lunches will be at the students' discretion. There are several restaurants close to the hotel and a kitchen is available in each hotel room.

Also readily available to program participants is MCCC's fitness center with a workout facility, pool, and basketball courts. Within walking distance of the campus is Mercer County Park encompassing more than 10,000 acres of open space containing a variety of recreational facilities, walking and biking trails, a rowing lake, and picnic areas.

Campus Support:

MCCC has a robust Office of International Student Support providing assistance and advice to students who come to study in the US. This office is connected to all campus resources to assist all international students.

In addition, MCCC has a student-run International Student Organization (ISO) which has a long tradition of supporting students from other countries. These are students supporting students who know how to encourage and motivate each other in many ways.

Lastly, on-campus counseling is provided free of charge for any students in need of emotional or similar counseling.

Program Logistics:

- 96 hours of ESL instruction Monday through Thursday for four weeks
- Opening ceremony and campus orientation
- Local housing, including a furnished, fully-equipped kitchen
- All ground transportation to and from campus, for food shopping, and to train station
- One program coordinator assigned to manage proposed program and act as a main point of contact.
- Bilingual Faculty assistant to teach ESL classes and accompany students on cultural excursions
- Seminar speakers to present on cultural topics
- Peer mentor students to assist and support project participants
- Local trips for both academic and cultural activities to New York City, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and Princeton

- Books and classroom materials provided
- Health insurance provided

IMPORTANT PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS:

- **Participants must be 18 years or older.**
- **Participants must secure appropriate visas for travel and study (F-1) and air transportation.**
- **Participants must have basic English language competence, TOEFL score of 94 or higher.**

Proposed Schedule:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Breakfast	Breakfast						
9-12pm (3 hours)	ESL instruction				Cultural Experience to NYC, Philadelphia, Princeton, and Washington D.C.	Shopping, individual independent activities	Independent unstructured time, possible church visits
12-1pm	Lunch						
1-3pm (2 hours)	Cultural Seminar: Topic 1	Cultural Seminar: Topic 2	Cultural Seminar: Topic 3	Cultural Seminar: Topic 4			
4-5pm	Free time						
5-7pm	Dinner						
Evening	Free night	Game night	Bookstore Night	Movie night			

Proposed Budget:

Proyecta 100,000 Scholarship BUDGET proposal

4 weeks
30 days
96 hours of instruction
30 student cost basis

Item	Rate per item	# units per item	Per person entire stay	Total cost entire group
Room and board				
room per night	$ 90	30	$ 2,700 (per room)	$ 40,500
				$ 40,500
Food				
Breakfast	included in room cost			
lunch	$ 10	30	$ 300	
dinner	$ 15	30	$ 450	
	$ 25		$ 750	**$ 22,500**
Fees				
ESL instruction			$ 650	$ 19,500
Coordinator	$ 5,000	1		$ 5,000
Faculty Assistant	$ 780	3		$ 2,340
Seminar Speakers	$ 500	4		$ 2,000
Peer-Mentors	$ 8.50	200		$ 1,700
Health Insurance			$ 35	$ 1,050
				$ 31,590
Transportation				
Cultural experiences (coach bus, shuttle bus)	$ 8,000	1		$ 8,000
				$ 8,000
WeekendTrips				
food surplus per person	$ 20	4	$ 80	$ 2,400
				$ 2,400

Grand total: $ 104,990
$ 3,500 per person