SEP – Becalos – Santander Universidades
Scholarship for Mexican Students 2015
PROPOSAL

Mercer County Community College (MCCC) is proposing to implement a four-month-long (August to December 2015) academic and cultural immersion program for 30 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) students from Mexican Technological and Polytechnical Universities.

Background:

MCCC is an open admissions two-year community college located in Central New Jersey that is accredited by Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSACS). MCCC awards Associate in Science (AS), Associate in Applied Science (AAS), Associate in Arts (AA), and Associate in Fine Arts (AFA) degrees in over 65 disciplines. Visit http://www.mccc.edu/programs_degree.shtml for a complete list of degree programs.

MCCC has two full-service campuses; one is a suburban campus in West Windsor, NJ and the other is an urban campus in Trenton, NJ. MCCC services approximately 9,000 students each semester. Students who take 12 or more credits in a given semester are considered full-time; 40% of MCCC students are full-time. MCCC operates four semesters in an academic year; Fall (August-December), Winter (December-January), Spring (January-May), and Summer (May-August). Courses are mostly 3-credits or 4-credits. A 3-credit course is approximately 45 hours of instruction and a 4-credit course is roughly 60 hours.

The student population of MCCC is approximately 18% Hispanic.

Proposed Academic Offering:

Mexican students will study in a U.S. academic setting, improve their English skills, and gain content knowledge in STEM disciplines. They will be offered two STEM courses and one English as a Second Language (ESL) course. Students will be able to create a schedule where they take three courses (12 credits), MCCC's equivalent of full-time status.

MCCC offers a wide variety of STEM courses including introductory and intermediate levels of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Electronics, Engineering Science, Game Design, Game Programming, Medical Laboratory Technology, and Mathematics. Courses will be scheduled so that Mexican students will have the option of choosing from among these subjects depending upon their major. Students will enroll in sections where they are comingled with U.S. students. They will thus have the opportunity to not only acquire academic knowledge but also be exposed to the culture of the U.S. classroom and develop English competence in the STEM disciplines.

In addition to STEM classes, students will take two ESL courses. Appropriate placement of ESL classes will be determined by their TOEFL scores and/or their performance on the placement exam. ESL faculty assigned to this group will be specifically chosen and trained in the language of the STEM subjects in order to accommodate the language need of the English language learners. Selected ESL faculty will be bilingual in English and Spanish.

MCCC's Fall 2015 semester begins Saturday, August 22, and ends Wednesday, December 9, 2015. In order for the Mexican students to achieve maximum success, it is vital that they arrive no later than one week prior to the start of the semester allowing them time to orient to the U.S. community college environment and to obtain the necessary materials for their classes. MCCC is proposing an extensive pre-semester orientation program that will include several days of on-campus activities and off-campus experiences. MCCC also proposes an end-of-semester celebration to acknowledge the accomplishments of these visiting students.

Proposed Co-curricular and Cultural Activities:

The Mexican students will be spending approximately 17 weeks at MCCC. The program will include weekly activities, cultural experiences, site visits, and sporting events.

A significant component of this program is to expose students to STEM research institutions and related industries in action. The student contingent will get to observe STEM companies that have a specific focus on bio-technology, business administration, accounting, banking and finance, companies that have a substantial presence in NJ including Bristol-Myers Squibb,

Celegene, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, and Roche which are located in close proximity to the MCCC campus. Commercial banks and Wall Street firms such as Goldman Sachs are also nearby. One trip to a local STEM professional conference is planned as well as a visit to Educational Testing Service (ETS) and Princeton University.

During their time at MCCC, the college is a proposing a trip to at least one sporting event. Their time in the area coincides with the staging of many professional and college games, including soccer, baseball, football and basketball, taking place in New York and Philadelphia as well as more locally. MCCC is also proposing at least one trip to New York City to see a theatrical performance (with a side-trip to Wall Street), one trip to Washington DC to visit the various monuments, and one trip to Philadelphia to tour the birthplace of The United States.

Mercer County Community College is located in central New Jersey, seven miles from Princeton University, 51 miles southwest of New York City, 45 miles northeast of Philadelphia, PA, and 185 miles northeast of Washington DC. The Amtrak train line has a stop four miles from campus and the college operates a shuttle that runs between the campus and the train station. Amtrak lines run to Boston, NYC, Philadelphia, Washington DC, and many other points along the East Coast. The campus shuttle and public transportation will allow students to travel about independently in addition to the planned visits to STEM businesses, New York City, Philadelphia, and Princeton, NJ.

Proposed Housing, Meals, and Mentoring:

MCCC does not offer dormitory accommodations for its students, which is not uncommon for the U.S. community colleges. MCCC proposes to house the Mexican students in a nearby Extended Stay America (or equivalent hotel facilities) and shuttle them to and from campus each day with our campus shuttle bus. The rooms in the Extended Stay America in Princeton offer two beds and a fully-stocked kitchen; continental breakfast is included. Students will be offered the opportunity to travel to a nearby grocery store to purchase food items courtesy of the Mercer shuttle.

Breakfast meals are included. Lunch meals Monday through Friday will be at the campus eatery. Dinners and weekend lunch meals will be at the student's discretion. There are several local eateries around the hotel and an in-room kitchen for meal preparation at the hotel.

Right on campus, MCCC has an excellent fitness center with a workout facility, pool, and basketball courts. Within walking distance 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:

Mercer County Community College peer-mentors – specially chosen current bilingual MCCC students – will guide participants throughout their experience, support them, and enrich their English language ability. Also, a mentor family will be assigned to each student and a coordinator will be assigned to the group to ensure a productive and stimulating experience. All students will be partnered with a host family to share the Thanksgiving celebration.

In addition, MCCC has a thriving International Student population. Approximately 125 international students from more than 50 different countries are studying on campus each semester. The office of International Student Support is a valuable resource for these students. In addition, the college's International Student Organization is quite supportive of students who are studying away from home.

On-campus personal and academic counseling is provided free of charge for students in need of counseling.

Program Logistics:

- Opening ceremony and campus orientation will be arranged.
- Local housing, including a furnished, fully-equipped kitchen will be provided.
- All ground transportation to and from campus, food shopping, and train station are provided.
- One program coordinator will be assigned to act as a main point of contact.

- Mentor families will be assigned to host the students during Thanksgiving holiday.
- Peer-mentor students will work with students during their visit.
- Local trips for both academic and cultural activities will be planned to New York City, Philadelphia, Princeton, and Washington DC.
- 12 credits of Mercer courses will be offered – two in STEM disciplines and one in ESL.
- Books and materials will be included.
- Health insurance will be provided.

IMPORTANT PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS:

- **Participants must be 18 years or older.**
- **Participants must secure appropriate visas for travel and study, travel and health insurance, and air transportation.**
- **Participants must have basic English language competence.**

Budget

We are proposing a charge of $15,006 per student for one full-time semester at Mercer County Community College to cover tuition, housing, meals, and weekend activities which include trips to major East Coast cities.

Mexican student visitors **30** students
Dates: Fall 2015 17 weeks
119 days

Item	Rate per item	# units per item	Per person entire stay	Total cost entire group
Room and board				
room per night	$ 90	119	$ 10,710	
			(per room)	$ 160,650
				$ 160,650
Food				
Breakfast				
lunch	$ 10	119	$ 1,190	
dinner	$ 15	119	$ 1,785	
	$ 25		$ 2,975	**$ 89,250**
Fees				
Coordinator	$10,000	1		$ 10,000
Faculty Assistants	$ 2,700	2		$ 5,400
peer-mentors	$ 8.50	350		$ 2,975
Transportation	$ 7,500	1		$ 7,500
tuition	$ 280	12	$ 3,360	$ 100,800
Health insurance	$ 30	17	$ 510	$ 15,300
Class supplies			$ 300	$ 9,000
				$ 150,975
Trips				
Cultural experiences				
transprotation	$ 1,100	17		$ 18,700
Fees/tours/admission	$ 60	17	$ 1,020	$ 30,600
				$ 49,300
Grand total				$ 450,175