

Date

Dear Potential GETT Partner,

We would like to invite you to partner with us for an exciting and groundbreaking project called Global Education Through Technology (GETT).

This project uses simple, internet-based videoconferencing technology to create real time connections between classes at our college and similar classes at partner colleges and universities in other countries. The goal of GETT is to enable faculty and students from different countries to work together. Including this international collaboration component as part of a course leads to a deeper understanding of the course subject matter by presenting it from multiple perspectives. Uniquely, the collaboration develops these perspectives in the context of an active exchange of the partner countries' cultural backgrounds and traditions, giving students an opportunity to integrate all these factors into their understanding of the subject matter.

The project has benefits for students and faculty alike. Through participation in this opportunity to interact directly with their peers/colleagues in the United States,

Students will:

- Broaden their education through exposure to views of other culture in the context of their academic studies.
- Interact with their peers in California and develop deeper personal awareness of the world around them through the “live” exchange of ideas and views.
- Improve their fluency in spoken and written English by live, meaningful discussions, emails, chat and written assignments.
- Deepen their understanding of their own culture through explaining it to their U.S. partners.

Faculty will:

- Become leaders in this innovative way of teaching, and resources to colleagues who wish to explore this increasingly valuable area of curriculum development.
- Create a global perspective on topics in their fields by collaborating with their international colleagues.
- Contribute to a globally-aware campus environment.
- Increase their knowledge of technology, especially as it relates to educational goals and practices.

El Camino College, a large (about 25,000 students) community college in the South Bay area of Los Angeles County offers over 80 different programs/majors in academic and vocational areas ([www.elcamino.edu](http://www.elcamino.edu)). Many of our students don't have opportunities to travel abroad to experience other cultures, political systems and intercultural communication issues firsthand. We developed the GETT project because we strongly believe that knowledge of other countries and cultures and the ability to communicate cross-culturally is a necessary skill in today's interconnected world. Our hope is that providing a direct, real time international classroom collaboration in various disciplines will help to create “ a new global learning space ... that promotes cooperation and exchange at all levels and in all sectors of education around the world.” (United Nations *Ubuntu Declaration*, 2002)

We sincerely hope that you will be interested in partnering with us and are looking forward to an opportunity to further explore your participation in the Global Education Through Technology project.

Sincerely,

Vice President of Academic Affairs