EL CAMINO COLLEGE  
A Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad  
Summer, 2005  

APPLICATION PACKET  

DEADLINE: December 16, 2004  
TENTATIVE SEMINAR DATES: July 2-30, 2005  
For full and updated information, including schedule and cost, see the program website at www.elcamino.edu/grants

PROJECT:  
The El Camino College Spanish Program and the Teacher Education Program (TEP) jointly propose a four-week Fulbright Hays Group Project Abroad (GPA) seminar in Mexico entitled “Understanding a Mexican student: Integrating the Mexican Perspective into Teacher Education.” The proposed program seeks to build a strong knowledge base and an understanding of the Mexican school system, the various cultures of Mexico, its history and traditions as well as the socio-economic conditions that are impacting the lives of ordinary Mexican citizens. Gained knowledge and understanding will be incorporated into participants’ courses for future teachers to adequately prepare them for teaching in the Los Angeles area schools where often as many as 90% of the students are of Mexican descent. Participants include, ECC faculty who teach Spanish or TEP courses, and elementary school teachers from local school districts.

Seminar participants will visit two distinctly different areas in Mexico: Guadalajara, Jalisco, which is the second largest city in Mexico with a population of over 3 million people and Oaxaca, a historical colonial city, in which the colonial past blends with the strong indigenous influence of numerous Indian tribes who live in the surrounding villages. The participants will spend one week in Guadalajara and three weeks in Oaxaca and its surrounding areas. These sites were selected because they will expose the participants to different aspects of life in Mexico, different geographical and cultural environments, and different issues – political, economic, and educational.

In addition to providing the participants with a base knowledge and understanding of Mexico’s history, cultures, and modern reality, the project will also focus on various aspects of the Mexican educational system. The participants will visit schools in different areas and settings – urban schools in poor and wealthy areas of Guadalajara, and in the small colonial town of Oaxaca and surrounding indigenous villages. They will also visit Escuelas Normales, teacher education institutions. All participants will receive 30 hours of Spanish instruction. During their stay in Oaxaca, the GPA participants will live with families, many of whom are Zapotec Indians, to experience their everyday life and practice their Spanish.
APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND DEADLINES:

1. Submit application by DECEMBER 16, 2004
2. Make sure references arrive on a timely basis by the application deadline
3. Be available for an interview on the date scheduled

ELIGIBILITY:

Participation in the Summer 2005 Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad is subject to eligibility criteria established for all federally subsidized programs.

Applicant must be:

1. A citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States;
2. A language arts teacher at a K-6 level in the United States; or an El Camino College (ECC) Teacher Education Program (TEP) instructor; or an ECC foreign language instructor.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Participants will be selected on a competitive basis. Selection will be made by a committee based on the application form, the essay, and the interview. The following criteria will be used.

1. Commitment to the enrichment of teaching with the cultural and area-specific information gained as a result of the GPA (25 points);
2. Potential contribution to expanding pre-service and in-service teachers’ knowledge of Mexico and its educational system by means of website development, in-service presentations, and team teaching (20 points);
3. Ability to develop curriculum units (20 points);
4. Willingness and commitment to create and share units for the website (10 points);
5. Contribution to the group’s overseas experience (10 points);
6. Impact on students’ ability to think globally (10 points); and
7. Spanish language skills (5 points) – applicable to elementary school teachers and TEP faculty.
8. Commitment to read the articles before departure and to discuss issues that come up in the readings (5 points)
9. Willingness to meet upon return and develop presentations for dissemination at workshops and conferences locally and statewide. (5 points)

Additional criteria:
10. Teach at a school with large Hispanic population (5 points) – applicable to elementary school teachers

The selection committee will review the applications and assign points based on the above scale. To ensure equal access and equitable treatment, the El Camino College Affirmative Action and Diversity guidelines will be followed in the selection of the participants for the Fulbright Hays GPA. Applications will be accepted from all qualified persons regardless of gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age.
NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE

COSTS:

The GPA grant covers the round trip from Los Angeles, all transportation within Mexico, room & board, and tuition costs
The GPA grant does not cover personal expenses, most of the meals (if they are not part of the room & board package), and transportation costs to and from LAX.
There will be a fee of $75 per person to cover the cost of orientation and materials
Participating schools will cover the cost of substitutes if need arises.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact: Mercedes A. Thompson at 310-660-3335 or Nitza Lladó at 310-660-3172
Fulbright-Hays GPA to Mexico, El Camino College

Fulbright-Hays GPA to Mexico Application Checklist

Deadline: December 16, 2004

Name: ________________________________________
(First) (M I) (Last)

Application form

Curriculum vitae or resumé

List of three persons who will be providing reference letters
(one should be from the Principal or Assistant Principal or from the Dean
of your school). These letters of reference should be submitted by
December 16, 2004

Meets eligibility requirements
Citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States;
Elementary school teacher or appropriate instructor from El Camino

FILE COMPLETE

Please attach this page to the front of the application form.

Return applications to:

Dr. Mercedes A. Thompson
Group Project Abroad to Mexico
Humanities Division
El Camino College
16007 Crenshaw Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90506
APPLICATION

Please send by December 16, 2004 to:
Dr. Mercedes A. Thompson
Group Project Abroad to Mexico
Humanities Division
El Camino College
16007 Crenshaw Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90506

Name:
__________________________
(title) (first) (middle initial) (last)

Home address:
__________________________
(street and apartment)

__________________________
(city) (state) (zip code)

__________________________
(phone)

School address:
__________________________
(name of school)

__________________________
(street)

__________________________
(city) (state) (zip code)

__________________________
(phone number) (fax)

Email address: ________________________________________________________

Present Employment: ___________________________ # of years there: _________

Position: ___________________________ Grades or levels taught: _____________

Course(s) taught: ______________________________________________________
APPLICATION: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The goal of the project "Understanding a Mexican Student: Integrating the Mexican Perspective into Teacher Education" is to build a strong knowledge base and understanding among the participants of the Mexican school system of the various cultures of Mexico, its history and traditions, as well as the socio-economic conditions that are impacting the lives of ordinary Mexican citizens. The knowledge gained will be incorporated into participants' courses for current and future teachers to more adequately prepare them for teaching in the Los Angeles area schools where as many as ninety percent of the students are of Mexican descent.

PROFESSIONAL & PERSONAL ASSESSMENTS

1. Describe how your participation in the project will contribute to your professional goals as an educator. How will your participation benefit your students, your school, and your district? Describe previous international or cross-cultural experiences and how these have influenced you, especially with reference to teaching. In a few sentences, identify some of the things you know about Mexico OR identify some of the issues/topics relating to Mexico that you would like to know more about.
2. **Explain how your background and experience will allow you to adapt to diverse situations of living, studying, and traveling with a large group of people in Mexico for four weeks.**
Finally, describe how you plan to incorporate your firsthand knowledge and experience of Mexican life, language, culture, and education in Mexico into your school and/or class curriculum.
Fulbright-Hays GPA to Mexico, El Camino College

III. List of References:

Please list three references – with at least one reference being the current principal or head administrator in the school where you work. The two other strong letters might come, one from a colleague at your school or other educational institutions and another from a community member. Please complete the top part of the letter of reference and give to each one of your evaluators.

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Note: It is your responsibility to ensure that your reference letters are mailed in a timely manner.
FULBRIGHT-HAYS
2005 SUMMER GROUP PROJECT ABROAD TO MEXICO
Summer, 2005

LETTER OF REFERENCE

To be completed by the applicant:

1. Name of applicant: ________________________________

2. Major field of study: ________________________________

3. Field of specialization: ________________________________

4. (Optional) I hereby waive my rights to read this confidential recommendation, as provided in the Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

   Signature: ________________________________ Date: ________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Instructions for the evaluator:

   Please state your opinion of the applicant's ability to:
   ▪ participate and contribute in the planning and evaluation process.
   ▪ develop curriculum.
   ▪ integrate materials read, on-site observations, and research into lesson plans.
   ▪ train other teachers in the school/district.
   ▪ help disseminate this information to teachers in other school districts and/or at professional conferences.

In addition, please tell us whether the participant has the necessary interpersonal and group-living skills that will facilitate the group experience in Mexico.

If the applicant has signed Item (4) above, please attach this page to your letter of reference to ensure the confidentiality of this letter.

Mail the completed letter to Dr. Mercedes A. Thompson, Humanities Division, El Camino College, 16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506. For the applicant to be considered for the Summer Group Project Abroad in Mexico, your letter of reference must be received by December 16, 2004.

Printed Name: ________________________________ Institution: ________________________________

Signature: ________________________________ Date: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________ Position: ________________________________