

Final Report for NCHEA Grants

Within *two weeks* of the completion of the project, a Final Report and all support materials must be submitted to Elisa Grant-Vallone, NCHEA Director.

Please email this Final Report as a Word file (*not* as a pdf) to Elisa Grant-Vallone at evallone@csusm.edu and include items 8, 9, and 10 as email attachments. (If hard copies are the only available versions please mail them.)

Additionally, mail a hard copy of the Final Report and all *original* receipts, W-9 forms, etc. (item #11 on this form) to **Sonia Perez, NCHEA Coordinator, CSUSM Faculty Center, S. Twin Oaks Valley Rd San Marcos, CA 92096**. (We are unable to accept faxes or pdf files; original copies of these documents are required so please save copies for your records.)

Today's date: 12/2/2016

Project Title: International Mentorship Program

Project/Grant Director: Grace Primicias

Description of project/objectives (in 250 words or less):

The International Mentorship Program (IMP) is designed to link international students with members of the local community. While most of our mentors are recruited in partnership with our Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), we have also mentors from partner referrals. Our mentors have become great resources and advocates as they assisted the international students get connected to living abroad in the United States.

Together, the mentors and international students met weekly for casual conversation based around topics of culture, current events, and community involvement. The students were also responsible for making a "cultural presentation" to teach the other students and the mentors about an aspect of their home country. Through the weekly sessions, the international students developed their communication skills and cultural competency in this co-curricular experience.

While we strive towards creating a valuable and meaningful semester-based program, we also encourage that relationships extend beyond time and across borders. In fact, one of the greatest aspects of this program are the relationships that blossom beyond the designated weekly meeting time. Examples of socializing beyond the sessions this Fall semester included a trip to the Swamis Meditation Gardens, restaurant outings, a program organized trip to the Safari Park, Trick or Treating, and many Thanksgiving exchanges.

Furthermore, this session of mentorship was extra special as we worked to extend the reach of the program by inviting students from Palomar College and MiraCosta College. In turn, the relationships with the mentors went beyond only serving the students at California State University San Marcos. While part of the goal was to expand the international relationships, another goal was educating community college students about CSUSM and the transfer process.

Description of faculty/staff intercampus collaboration (in 250 words or less):

While the program was facilitated by the American Language and Culture Institute (ALCI) at CSUSM, this program relied on partners from Palomar and MiraCosta especially in the recruitment phase. Multiple class visits were conducted at the local Community Colleges after meeting with the administrative staff at both institutions. Furthermore, a large benefit was having instructors who taught at CSUSM and one of the local community colleges. CSUSM instructors were very familiar with the program, which allowed them to confidently share program details with their students at the respective community college and encourage involvement.

Number of students/faculty/staff served (broken down by institution):

Students

- 47 students from California State University San Marcos
- 21 additional students from Proyecta program joining for four weeks (October 10 – November 4)
- 6 students from Palomar College
- 1 student from MiraCosta College

Faculty/staff

- Brooke Coutteau from California State University San Marcos
- Shaquelle Smith from California State University San Marcos
- Grace Primicias from California State University San Marcos
- Dawn Bell from California State University San Marcos and Mira Costa College
- Tami Richey from California State University San Marcos and Palomar College
- Various instructors from Palomar and Mira Costa who allowed us to present to their classes

Community members

- 14 members from the local community volunteering as mentors

Assessment of project outcome (in 250 words or less):

As the goal was to integrate the students from Palomar and MiraCosta College into the existing International Mentorship Program at California State University San Marcos, we found the presence of the visiting students to be a rich addition to the program. Of the 14 different mentorship groups, half were able to have representation from either MiraCosta or Palomar College.

The grant goals were met in the following ways:

- increased cultural competency
- increased transfer awareness
- increased intercultural communication
- at least 80% total attendance

All students who were a part of this program also went through an orientation to set clear expectations. During this orientation, students were also given a pre-test cultural competency assessment that was later revisited at the final session, where they increased an average of 3 percentage points. The students from Palomar and MiraCosta College were also invited on a campus tour so that they could gain early exposure to the campus. These students were also invited to a Transfer Workshop on November 7th. In fact, we had three students from Palomar College/MiraCosta who showed a strong interest in transferring to CSUSM, and these participants

were then personally connected with our International Specialist.

In terms of the general program curriculum, the theme changed every week with the topics ranging from higher education in the U.S. to discussions of current events. Alongside the themes, activities were incorporated to encourage student-centered learning.

One issue we had was not being able to recruit as many students from Mira Costa as we could have due to communication and scheduling conflicts. A recommendation for next time is to try communicating to a broader administrative audience for the different schools.

All in all, the program evaluations from the students and the mentors indicated that this was an overall successful season of the International Mentorship Program.

Signature list/sign-in sheet for the event – attached

Flyer or advertisement for the event – attached

Samples of photos taken at the event – link in email

Original receipts, W-9 forms, etc. (no faxes or pdfs)– please mail hard copies to above address; retain copies of these documents for your own records – Ms. Sonia Perez has the originals as she assisted in the payment of the gift cards and catering order.