



# International Travel Proposal

Name: Jey Venkatesan

Division: Developmental Education

Destination: Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Start Date: March 25, 2015

End Date: March 28, 2015

Total Projected Costs: \$ 1700.00

Amount Requested from the Council on Excellence: \$ 1700.00

Amount Requested from Departmental Budget: \$ 0

### Complete ALL sections for Travel\*

- Conference Title, Institution, Business, or Person(s) to be visited:  
TESOL 2015: International Convention and English Language Expo
- Explanation of how the travel contributes to the College District's Strategic Goals:  
Please see attached.
- Role the employee shall play:
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Keynote speaker	<input type="checkbox"/> Training
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference presenter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participation
<input type="checkbox"/> Session facilitator	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
- Date and purpose of any previous international travel:  
NA
- Briefly describe how you are engaged in college service at Collin.  
Please see attached.

Application for approval must be submitted through the approved travel process at least three months prior to international travel; exceptions approved by appropriate Vice President. International travel must be approved by the immediate supervisor, appropriate Vice President, and the Sr. Vice President of Academic Affairs / Student Development prior to submission to the College President and Board of Trustees.

<u>Jeyashree Venkatesan</u> 10/30/14	<u>[Signature]</u> 10/30/14
Signature of Requestor Date	Signature of Immediate Supervisor Date
<u>Mauli Kulkarni</u> 11.18.14	<u>[Signature]</u>
Signature of Vice President Date	Signature of Sr. Vice President, AA/SD Date
<u>[Signature]</u>	
Signature of College President Date	Signature of Board of Trustees Date

\*Please attach Risk Assessment Report from the State Department for destination and an updated report within one month prior to travel. Repayment of travel expenses will be required if individual leaves employment of Collin College prior to 12 months following the completion of the International Travel.

## **International Travel Proposal (attachment)**

### **Explanation of how the travel contributes to the District's Strategic Goals**

“Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)” is a prestigious international organization which brings together teachers and administrators promoting teaching English. Hence, it is a great privilege to be invited to present in the “Crossing Borders, Building Bridges through Affiliate Partnerships” colloquium. TexTESOL V, the local regional TESOL affiliation, has a partnership with Yakutsk TESOL in Russia. The partnership agreement facilitates a board member to visit Yakutsk to teach Yakutia children and to share professional expertise with teachers. As a long time TexTESOL V Board member, I had the privilege of visiting Yakutsk in the summer of 2011; I taught conversation, grammar, and writing to a class of local professionals and, as an IELTS examiner (International English Language Testing System), I gave an IELTS workshop to Yakutsk TESOLers. In the Affiliate colloquium, I'll be sharing my experiences with the international TESOL leaders to facilitate new partnership to blossom and to exchange ideas to improve professional capability. Similarly, the colloquium will give me an opportunity to learn from other affiliate leaders about their organizations and professional experiences.

After my visit to Yakutsk, TexTESOL V invited a Yakutia teacher, Evgeniya Yadrikhinskaya, to exchange her skills with the American students and professionals. Ms. Yadrikhinskaya visited my ESL classes to see how we teach English to students at Collin College. In addition, Collin College Russian teachers and students learning Russian worked with Ms. Yadrikhinskaya and did many translation works. My presentation will discuss these positive aspects of partnership, automatically bringing forth Collin College's core values, teaching excellence and creativity. The presentation will also be a platform to explore the possibility of bridging one of my classes at Collin College with a class in the University of Yakutsk, which will give Collin College and our ESL students a global exposure.

TESOL provides a plethora of presentations in both theoretical and practical aspects of teaching. From my previous experiences, I can be assured that I will have tremendous opportunities to learn from other presentations by international professionals. I am particularly interested in learning about integrating Reading and Writing skills and incorporating technology into teaching English. The publishers' booths will give additional opportunities to look for new textbooks for our ESL department.

Presenting and attending TESOL 2015 is undoubtedly an outstanding prospect for scholarly activities and professional networking. I will return with innovative ideas and current teaching methodologies to share with other ESL colleagues at Colling College and implement in my classrooms. The conference will definitely provide an opportunity to evaluate my teaching and modify it at any level I deem necessary to enhance my students' learning.

**Briefly describe how you are engaged in college service at Collin**

I have been the primary adviser for Collin College Lions Club for many years. Through club activities, I am able to serve both our students and college. As the adviser, I mentor officers and members for different duties and services to become leaders. I have been instrumental in engaging the club members in many college level activities, such as participating in new student orientations every semester and conducting fundraisers, which leads to intercollege collaboration with UTD Lions Club and our own Collin College tennis team. Also, this year our club participated in PTK's Leadership program and presented "How to handle stress in school." Due to its popularity, the members were requested to present again this semester. At the community level, we visit Children's Medical Center to engage and interact with children, collect clothes for Samaritan Inn, collect canned foods for Texas Food Bank, and collect eye glasses. The biggest project we are planning for next semester is to mentor Children at a school in Oak Cliff, enriching both our students and the children. Thus, the club provides me to render service to both our college and community.

I extend my services to college students regularly by participating every semester during the Welcome Week "Need Help? Ask Me!" and "Be Cool at Collin College" programs. I have also enjoyed participating in the Faculty Round table. I have volunteered for the Dignity Initiative program.

I am particularly committed to serving our ESL students. I have been participating in the Service Learning Faculty Camps and involving my ESLW&R 0215 classes in the Service Learning Program. My students volunteer at the Feast of Sharing, a charity program run by HEB and Central Market, providing Thanksgiving dinner to approximately 11,000 people in Fair Park, Dallas. The students are taught to integrate their service experience into writing. I also organize the ESL Open House once a year. In fact, we just held our Open House on October 30, 2014, in the atrium at Spring Creek Campus. This is an opportunity for all ESL students to participate in a culture-sharing event open to all Collin students, faculty, and staff. Students volunteer information about their culture by joining other ESL students from their countries. They bring

their culture to Collin College by displaying their talents, wearing their national costume, sharing tastes of their native food, and answering questions about their countries.

I take every opportunity to professionally develop by attending and presenting at conferences. I presented at the “One Day Study Skills Conference” at Spring Creek Campus. I serve the ESL professional community as a Publications Copy Coordinator on the TexTESOL Board. I help organize local TexTESOL V Fall Conferences, and I extended my service to the State Conference this year by proofreading the conference program. I have been a co-editor for TexELT, an online peer-reviewed journal. I have been an IELTS examiner for many years, which enables me to help students taking that exam.

I am looking forward to attending TESOL 2015 to bring home up-to-date teaching techniques and practices to our students and ESL colleagues.

## **Invitation to Present at TESOL 2015**

Congratulations Jey Venkatesan!

Your presentation in our proposal, number 0425-004129, titled, "Crossing Borders, Building Bridges through Affiliate Partnerships," has been included in the TESOL 2015 (<http://www.tesol.org/convention2015>) convention program, held on 25-28 March 2015 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

We will present our session on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 9:00 AM in room 205D at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. We look forward to your presentation in the Colloquium! Please consider this acceptance your invitation to participate in the 2015 International TESOL Conference.

Sincerely,

Dr. Janet Pierce  
TESOL International  
Affiliate Leadership Council Past Chair