



## International Travel Proposal

Name: Dulce de Castro

Division: Communication and Humanities

Destination: Vancouver, Canada

Start Date: January 8, 2015

End Date: January 11, 2015

Total Projected Costs: \$607.00

Amount Requested from the Council on Excellence: \$607.00 (hotel expense only requested)

Amount Requested from Departmental Budget: \$0.00

### **Complete ALL sections for Travel\***

- **Conference Title, Institution, Business, or Person(s) to be visited:** 2015 Annual Conference of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, Vancouver, Canada
- **Explanation of how the travel contributes to the College District's Strategic Goals:** The American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) has the reputation of being the preeminent and most important scholarly organization for Slavists in the United States, and its annual conference affords language and literature educators many opportunities to learn about new methods and current research and to share ideas and best practices with colleagues from around the world. As a presenter, I will have the opportunity to share my research on innovative teaching that promotes learning, to receive valuable feedback from specialists in my field to generate new ideas, and to possibly establish collaborative research relationships. Networking with colleagues would not only contribute to my professional development and education, but it would also give me the opportunity to share the contributions of Collin College faculty to foreign language education.

My participation in this conference would support Collin College's core values of academic excellence, learning, and creativity and innovation. My attendance at conference presentations and workshops would enhance my knowledge and skills, which would support these values as well as the specific goals of the Foreign Languages Department. By enhancing my professional expertise and teaching, my students' learning would in turn be enriched. I would attend educational sessions on pedagogical approaches and teaching methodology that: 1) promote critical thinking skills and cultural awareness, 2) support development of innovative assessments that effectively measure student learning outcomes, 3) motivate students to improve their creative skills, 4) enhance the effectiveness of hybrid and blended courses, and 5) lend insight into service learning projects that give students the opportunity to use their language skills in real-world situations that benefit the community. I would also attend workshops and publisher exhibits to learn about new products and see demonstrations of the latest technologies and innovations that will benefit our students.

In our current global economy, knowing a foreign language has become an increasingly valuable asset, so providing innovative language programs helps prepare our students for constantly changing academic, societal and career/workforce opportunities. I would use the insights gained from these educational sessions and workshops to enhance my teaching and help my students learn foreign languages more effectively, thus enhancing their employment prospects.

My participation in this prestigious conference as a presenter and attendee would indicate to the AATSEEL community that Collin College has outstanding faculty and would confirm the College's reputation for academic excellence. The larger community that recognizes the national reputation of AATSEEL would

also recognize Collin College faculty's affiliation with the organization as an indication of the College's valuing of academic excellence, learning, creativity, and innovation.

After my return, I would implement some of the ideas and best practices that I learn about at the conference, and I would share notes on sessions with my colleagues to enhance the quality of my teaching and of our foreign language programs. In February 2015, I would organize a workshop that will serve as a forum where my colleagues and I can share and benefit from what we have learned by attending and presenting at scholarly conferences in the fall 2014 and early 2015.

• **Role the employee shall play:**

Keynote speaker

Conference presenter Session  
facilitator

Training

Participation

Other

• **Date and purpose of any previous international travel:**

NA

- **Briefly describe how you are engaged in college service at Collin:** I have served on search committees and the following committees: Book-in-Common Committee, Passport to the World Committee, Committee on Best Practices and Problems in Online Courses, Service Learning Committee, Teaching and Learning Committee, and Course Repetition Committee. I am currently a member of the Committee on Collin Community and Collin Serves. I am also currently (Fall 2011-present) the Academic Discipline Lead for Spanish and Russian Languages. As Discipline Lead I have attended several meetings of the Core Assessment Committee and have taught a core course (French 2304). In addition, I have helped out during Welcome Week and have thus become familiar with the degree audit process, the core curriculum checklist, the importance of completing the core at Collin, and the transfer process. I have been able to use the knowledge gained from my roles as a Disciplined Lead and Welcome Week volunteer to provide advice to students regarding the importance of completing the core courses at Collin to fulfill the requirements of their degree and to facilitate the transfer process.

I am committed to promoting student academic success and excellence, service learning, innovation and creativity, research, and other scholarly activities. I have participated in the mentoring program several times, and this year I was among the mentors who received the Mentor of Excellence Award. I have often served as a volunteer to welcome and assist students during Welcome Week and during the Welcome Week celebration. On several occasions, I have participated in the New Student Orientation Faculty Roundtable and in the Orientation for International Students Faculty Roundtable.

I have created service learning projects and have helped my students with preparation of their presentations and posters for the Service Learning Ceremony. One of the most successful learning projects that I have organized involved my students in teaching Spanish to third and fourth graders at an elementary school in McKinney, which did not offer foreign language courses. This project gave my students the opportunity to apply their language skills in a real-world situation, improved their leadership and collaboration skills and promoted their personal and social responsibility. Moreover, this learning project allowed my students to develop resources to respond to the elementary school's need for foreign language instruction, enhanced Collin's presence in the community, and strengthened its relationship with the community.

I organized and chaired two student panels for the Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Student Research Conference in 2013 and 2014. The first panel, "The Challenges and Advantages of the Dyslexic Brain," included nine students who presented their research and wrote reflective papers on the memoir *My Dyslexia* by Philip Schultz, which was the book selected for the Book-in-Common Program for 2012-2013. By participating in this conference panel, my students not only honed their research, presentation, and leadership skills, but also learned about the importance of an academic environment of respect, dignity, and support for all students. The second panel, "The Benefits of Bilingualism," was composed of ten of my Russian and Spanish students. The students presented their research of how foreign language learning

provides cognitive benefits, supports academic achievement, and positively affects attitudes and beliefs about other cultures.

I have encouraged and helped my students to publish their translations in *Forces* and other literary magazines. In the spring semester of 2011, I organized and led a weekly ESL reading group to help our international students improve their academic reading skills, develop their vocabulary, and achieve academic success. During the 2008-2009 academic year, I served as the Faculty Advisor to the student organization SALSA, which promoted the study of Spanish, success in language learning, and an appreciation for the culture and literature of the Spanish-speaking world.

I have also helped at various events on campus, such as Wild West at the Park, the Chili Cook-Off, Reader's Theater, and the Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations. I have also regularly attended and supported several student events, including the Emerging Scholars Recognition Ceremony, student Reflection Receptions for service learning, Veterans Day Luncheon, the ESL Excellence Scholarship Luncheon, ESL Open House, and the Business and Professional Speaking Entrepreneurial Showcase.

Finally, I have served as a panelist for the Auteur Film Series on several occasions, participated in the Collin Faculty Adopt-a-Highway program, presented at Passport to the World, and participated in several other district events. This semester, I will organize a literature panel in connection with the Book-in-Common Program.

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.

<i>Dulce de Castro</i>	<i>9-5-14</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>9/5/14</i>
Signature of Requestor	Date	Signature of Immediate Supervisor	Date
<i>Mary Mike</i>	<i>9/10/14</i>	<i>Colleen Smith</i>	
Signature of Vice President	Date	Signature of Sr. Vice President, AA/SD	Date
<i>Cathy [Signature]</i>	<i>9/10/14</i>		
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.

*\* Will attend All College Day*