



International Travel Proposal

Name: Dallie B. Clark

Division: Communication & Humanities

Destination: Prague, Czech Republic

Start Date: March 17, 2014 (actual conf. 3/18-3/20)

End Date: March 21, 2014

Total Projected Costs: \$ About \$4,000 (less if using air miles)

Amount Requested from the Council on Excellence: \$ 0.00

Amount Requested from Departmental Budget: \$ 0.00

Complete ALL sections for Travel*

- Conference Title, Institution, Business, or Person(s) to be visited:
"Letters & Letter Writing: Signed, Sealed, Delivered," Inter-Disciplinary.Net Conference
- Explanation of how the travel contributes to the College District's Strategic Goals:
Please see attached statement.
- Role the employee shall play:

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

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.

Dallie Clark 1-7-14
 Signature of Requestor Date

Mary McKee 1-8-14
 Signature of Vice President Date

[Signature]
 Signature of College President Date

[Signature] 1/8/14
 Signature of Immediate Supervisor Date

Colleen Smith 1-10-14
 Signature of Sr. Vice President, AA/SD 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 Application (Continued)

Dallie Clark, PhD

"Letters & Letter Writing: Signed, Sealed, Delivered," Inter-Disciplinary.Net Conference, Prague, Czech Republic, March 18-20, 2014

<http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/at-the-interface/education/letters-and-letter-writing/call-for-presentations/>

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1099.html (State Department Information about Czech Republic)

Explanation of how the travel contributes to the College District's Strategic Goals:

My time at Collin has only solidified my opinion that I work with some of the brightest, most engaging professors in the country, professors who are continually committed, along with their fellow staff members and visionary administrators, to maintain the stellar reputation of Collin College. It is precisely this sense of vision and dedication that should further propel us to **enhance Collin's presence by cultivating relationships, creating partnerships and developing resources**, not only on a regional basis, but on a national and *global* scale as well. Referencing Louis Pasteur's statement that "Chance favors the prepared mind," I believe that with exposure to global collaborations and international educators, we will set the tone for an even richer, more innovative academic environment here at Collin that benefits students, staff, professors, and community members alike.

While Collin College already boasts a large enrollment of international students, we also have students who have not traveled outside of Texas, much less the United States. Yet, both international and local students are drawn to and inspired by well-traveled, experienced professors who guide and prepare them for a global, complex world. Often, it is the college classroom professor who first opens these students' eyes and spirits to the world at large, helping to prepare their minds and instill a desire to become well-rounded human beings, thereby developing their own academic and career potential. It is vital that our students develop this curiosity and desire because employers, according to Higher Education sources such as the Association of American Colleges and Universities, want to hire college graduates with an "ability to apply knowledge and skills in new settings," who possess an "understanding of global context in which work is now done."¹ Employers also want to hire students who can work in teams, especially with people who are "different" from themselves. These are all

¹ Source: "Top Ten Things Employers Look for in New College Graduates," LEAP. Association of American Colleges and Universities, <<http://www.aacu.org/leap/students/employerstopten.cfm>>.

reasons that justify the need for experienced, well-traveled professors to open up students' minds to other cultures and regions of the world.

From a personal teaching perspective, my students have often commented about how my international travel, artifacts, and photographs have enriched their learning experience in our Humanities classes. During the Fall 2013 semester, for instance, I displayed my own travel photographs that I took in Italy, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, and Israel this past summer, thereby substituting what are normally generic images from the internet or textbook for real world travel experiences I could share with students. By presenting a combination of personal stories, lecture notes, and the sharing of artifacts and postcards from these countries, my students experienced a stronger connection to the cultures we were studying. To reiterate my points referenced above, then, I believe that a well-traveled professor provides a classroom environment that equips our students with curiosity, sharpened spirits, and engaged minds – all necessary ingredients for improving their chances for academic success and a smooth transition into society and the work force.

As a Humanities faculty member at Collin College, therefore, I want to stretch and challenge myself, not just for my own professional development, but also for the sake of the students and the institution that I serve. A career in academia is not a place to become complacent and overly comfortable; rather, it is a career that should reflect continued preparation by writing, traveling, embracing culture, and presenting research. In turn, this process allows us as educators to **develop and nurture Collin's Core Values** (Learning, Service and Involvement, Creativity and Innovation, Academic Excellence, Dignity and Respect, and Integrity) in our own lives and in the lives of our students as well.

With this in mind, I am seeking approval to travel to the **1st Global Conference on Letters & Letter Writing in Prague, Czech Republic, to present a paper in March, 2014**. My presentation proposal for *The Letter as Art in the Digital Age* was accepted, and the paper I present may be eligible for publication in one of the Interdisciplinary.Net journals. While there, I intend to network with a variety of educators and other individuals from around the world, which I believe will raise a positive awareness of our Collin College community of students, staff, and faculty. My hope is that I will meet potential speakers and educators who may wish to collaborate with Collin on future projects. Finally, by presenting some of my own research at this conference and by bringing back materials and new resources from my fellow presenters, I will return to my classroom with my own enlarged sense of the world to share with my students and colleagues.

This specific conference in the Czech Republic, with its precise ties to my research on the historical and artistic significance of the letter, will also allow me to become more familiar with the art, architecture, and cultural history of Eastern Europe, which I will use directly in my Humanities classroom lectures. Prague, in particular, is a significant cultural site featuring world-renowned museums, the famous Prague Castle, and the Historic Town Centre, which is on the Unesco World Heritage List. Furthermore,

Prague is a notable European site for musical achievements over the last several centuries as well as a city of timeless cathedrals and other historical buildings featuring Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, and later modernist architectural styles. Additionally, I am hoping to visit the Holocaust Memorial Museum at Terezin (Theresienstadt), a concentration site located north of Prague where nearly 98,000 men, women, and children died.

In summary, attending this conference will not only strengthen my ability as a faculty representative of Collin College to embrace and apply our **Core Values**, but it will also help bring to fruition important elements of our overall **Strategic Goals**, which involve:

- **cultivating international relationships** by working with professors and writers from around the world and by **raising awareness** of our own talent at Collin College
- **forging future international partnerships** by meeting a variety of potential speakers and administrators who may wish to collaborate with Collin College on forthcoming projects
- **developing and bringing back new resources** and materials to benefit our staff and faculty and to **assist students on an academic level**
- helping to prepare our students for "**constantly changing academic, societal and career/workforce opportunities**" in a complex, global world

I also hope to publish a scholarly journal article and secure ideas and concepts for displaying my research in a future curated exhibit entitled *The Letter as Art in the Digital Age*.

Date and purpose of any previous international travel:

Although I have never traveled internationally in association with Collin College, I have visited a variety of countries over the last decade (England, Spain, Italy, China, Greece, Egypt, Israel, Turkey, Canada and Mexico), some of which augmented my research at UTD. After my travels, I have presented "Passport to the World" lectures to the Collin College community at large on Beijing, China and Granada (Alhambra), Spain. I also presented a lecture on a domestic location, Concord, Massachusetts, about its historic and literary significance. This April, 2014, I am scheduled to deliver a lecture on Ephesus, Turkey.

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

In the nearly nine years I have worked fulltime for Collin College, I have been extremely active in college service and in organizations that impact my discipline and peers. For instance, for the past six years I have been highly involved with the **Community College Humanities Association (CCHA)**, serving first as a Liaison Officer and then as **president of the Southwest Division** from 2011-2013, which directly served my Communication & Humanities division peers. Currently, I am also serving in the following ways at Collin College:

- **Grade Appeals Committee**
- **Scholarship Selection Committee**
- **Veteran's Committee**
- **Passport to the World Committee**
- **Learning Community Council**
- **General Workforce Education Degree Task Force**
- **Faculty Advisor for a student organization (ROC)**
- I also just completed my work for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM) project for Humanities, which began this summer.
- Additionally, although not at Collin College, my community work on the **Advisory Council for the UTD School of Arts & Humanities** is one way I help strengthen our Collin College partnership with UTD.

My past involvement at Collin includes serving on SAFAC, Faculty Council, as a Student Mentor, and as a Committee Member for Collin College: Vision 2016 (Strategic Goal #3). Each year, I also regularly volunteer as a faculty member on one or more Auteur Film panels, the Student Research Conference, Faculty Roundtables at Student Orientations and with many other situational needs.