

8-Week Pilot Program Collaboration Between The Noel Foundation, CET and MIIS

With the generous support of The Noel Foundation, the Center for Employment Training (CET) and the Monterey Institute for International Studies (MIIS) began a collaboration to bring women from Salinas Valley to MIIS for English language training. The mutual benefits of the collaboration are evident after our 8-week pilot program. Student teachers at the Monterey Institute feel that they have gained important professional experience and contributed to the local community through the project. Meanwhile, the class participants coming to the Monterey Institute feel that they learned much more than English. They feel empowered and eager to learn more.



Though the program began with classes in Monterey, the collaboration quickly expanded due to the demand of the community for more teachers, and because of the willingness of MIIS students to volunteer. MIIS now has two teachers volunteering at CET's Salinas location and two teachers volunteering at CET's Soledad location. Including all three locations, there are eight teachers currently volunteering. Additionally, students at the Monterey Institute have been active in related projects, such as creating a curriculum design for future courses.

Several topics have been covered in the classes including basic grammar, computer skills, job search strategies, writing skills, and vocabulary.

Currently, the Monterey Institute location serves seven students during their once a week meeting. MIIS graduate student-teachers in Salinas volunteer twice a week and serve between 6 and 11 students per session. The teachers in Soledad volunteer once a week and report serving 12-15 students a week. ***Therefore, the total number of students served at all three locations per week is between 25 and 33.***

Student Comments

When asked what they learned during the class, students gave the following responses:

"I feel very happy because I learned a lot of words and wrote in English. I learned vocabulary words and how to speak English, and I learned to use the computer. I learned other cultures. I appreciate your help."

“I have learned that there are many other things we can do besides working to make a living, and coming to this class here at the Monterey Institute has made me realize that I am stronger and can do things for other people. I feel good about myself because I can do all this for the ladies that I bring from CET and all of these teachers have taught me a lot.”

“I learned too many things, but I’m proud to be in this class because I learned to express myself with other people, and I learned to let go of my fears and try to speak more English. I am very proud to be with you in this class. Thank you for all your time and patience with all of us.”

“My first day when I came, I’m scared, but now I’m very happy because I now write, speak, and understand English, so I learned how to express. I know how to use computers. Now, I have email, too.”

“In this class, I learned to write a little bit of English. Since never in my life, I had studied English. Writing it was impossible. I never thought that one day I would be coming to Monterey and I would get to know teachers. They were so simple and so good people.”

“I learned how to adapt to the teachers and friends, and a bit of English.”

“I have learned many things, good things like the value of sincere friendship. Thank you for teaching me to believe in myself, for giving me your time, your love, and your patience. I have learned so many good things, and I don’t know how to express them.”

CET student Juanita delivers her thank you speech on Friday, April 18th, 2008



“I am a CET student of Soledad, CA. I am grateful to God for this great opportunity for all of us. I would also like to express my appreciation to the CET program, (MIS) instructors and all sponsors that have opened a new door in my life. Through this door I have met wonderful instructors: Kelley, Kristina, Natalie, Pablo, Olivia, Cole, Jessie, Debbie, David and Karen. Our destiny will take us to different paths in our lives and as we part from each other, I will always remember you with love, respect and I will keep you in my prayers.

You will always be a part of my life. I love you all, may God bless you.”

VIDEO: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XRbLJS-vZE>

Photos from the Program:

