

## 2014-2015 Educational Grant Application

<b>Submission Date</b>	2014-03-25 14:16:19
<b>Name of Grant</b>	Opening College Doors - Supporting Our Native Speakers
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<b>Campus</b>	Lowery Freshman Center
<b>Curriculum Area</b>	Foreign Language
<b>Grade Level(s)</b>	9th-10th
<b>Students Impacted</b>	60
<b>Approver Name</b>	Jill Stafford
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<b>Project Purpose</b>	<p>The Native Speakers language Class is a class that is currently only offered at Lowery Freshman Center. It is a relatively new program but will be expanded to AHS for the 2014-2015 school year. It has been very successful for our students and we want to continue to provide opportunities for these students.</p> <p>By taking the advanced placement exam at the end of the 10th grade year, these students are provided the opportunity to earn credit for college classes while still in high school. For many of these students, attending college has not been a consideration or a possibility. By opening the door to a college degree, these students are able to improve the quality of their own lives and the lives of their families. For most of these students, the student attending college will be the first member of the family to pursue a college degree. With a college degree, the student has the ability to pursue both an education and a profession which will guarantee their independence and self-sufficiency.</p> <p>Earning credit in high school alleviates some of the financial burden which often prevents economically disadvantaged students from attending college. Students from economically disadvantaged households have a greater chance of dropping out of high school before graduation. However, the inclusion of these students in rigorous course work which broadens their horizons and presents fresh possibilities will hopefully serve as an anchor until graduation. By promoting the acquisition of a college degree not previously considered a possibility; these students will become productive members of society who participate in their community in a positive way.</p>

**Project Description**

The Native Speakers Language Class is a class that is currently only offered at Lowery Freshman center. It is a relatively new program and will be expanded to AHS for the 2014-2015 school year . It has been very successful for our students and we want to continue to provide opportunities for these students.

This year there are 31 students in the Native Speaker Language Class at Lowery and enrollment is expected to grow again for the next school year. The program allows students to take their native language and in one school year leave with both Spanish 1 and Spanish 2 credit when they enter the main campus as sophomores. As we move forward with the program at our main campus that will allow students to continue in advanced classes and work towards high school credit as well as college credit if they are successful on the AP exam.

Native Spanish speaking students in Allen ISD face a unique challenge. While they speak both Spanish and English, they often do not possess high-level writing, grammar or spelling skills in Spanish or English. Lowery Freshman Center offers a language class experience for these students: the Native Speaker Language Class. The class is taught entirely in Spanish and for most of the students, this is the first truly rigorous course they have attempted. Many of these students come from economically disadvantaged homes and do not have the background or support for taking more rigorous course work. In some cases, their parents did not complete high school and do not have the language skills nor educational ability to support their students in planning high school or college careers.

The class needs more resources to provide the students with a challenging, engaging learning experience. Specifically, we would like to have an online textbook license for each student. This "supersite" would give students instruction, activities, grammar studies and additional resources in the target language. In addition, a license to the site will allow the teachers involved in the Native Speaker program to develop a more advanced curriculum for both 9th and 10th grade students while integrating technology into the daily classroom.

**Allen ISD Goals/TEKS**

-Students will possess necessary skills to seek educational and career options as they continually pursue and integrate knowledge.

-Allen ISD cultivates innovation in education that empowers every learner to realize his or her full potential.

**Measurements**

The measurements that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the projects are going to be aligned with the Allen ISD advanced academic guidelines and the curriculum document for this course. We will also implement different types of projects for the student to demonstrate the application of the different concepts that they have learned throughout the duration of the course. In addition the students will also have to take the AP Spanish Language and Culture Exam during the last semester of their final year in this course. The test results from this exam will also help us to identify the areas that the students have mastered and what other areas they will need to continue to work on.

**Teaching Methods**

In regards to the teaching methods that will be used to

implement this project, it is our goal in our department, to offer the best learning environment throughout the use of technology. We will be adopting the necessary resources such as textbooks with online access and additional laptops in order to offer a great learning experience for each student. In addition, we will be providing to our students engaging and meaningful lessons in order for them to develop and master the skills that we will be teaching them in the classroom. Furthermore, our school district has adopted a new learning management system called "Canvas". This management system will also be a great tool for the instructors to use throughout the duration of the course. This LMS will enhance the learning experience of these students by challenging them with the application of skills for the technological world that we live in. Students will be able to communicate asynchronously and synchronously not only with their peers, but also with their instructors. The learning environment that we will be providing for these students throughout the duration of this course will not only help them to become more successful students in their upper-level classes, but also in their quest of a college or university experience.

### **Timeline for Project**

This project will take place throughout the entire 2014-2015 school year. Some planning will take place prior to funds being available so that we will be prepared once we do receive funds.

### **Curriculum/System Support**

The primary characteristic of the Allen ISD graduate, according to the Graduate Profile, is a student who is "academically prepared for future pursuits". Ensuring that every Allen graduate is academically prepared encompasses many different pathways, support systems, and choices. A high percentage of students in the Native Speaker program have been labeled at-risk of not graduating. This unfortunate label necessitates targeted support for these students to guarantee on-time graduation with the appropriate credentials. By providing needed resources for curriculum development and targeted instruction for the students in this program, the possibilities of "future pursuits" become expansive and immeasurable. Many students in this program may not have previously considered attending college, and in many situations, will be the first in their families to attend college. By opening the door to advanced placement, college becomes a feasible and tangible option. The danger lies in not providing relevant curriculum which reflects the unique life experience of this student population, and instruction which addresses their particular learning and motivational needs. Allen has always promulgated a differentiated approach to instruction and learning. By providing additional resources and support for the Native Speaker program, true differentiation will occur.

### **Additional Comments**

Wanted to share successes with you regarding this program:

During the 2012-13 school year, 22 students were enrolled in the Native Speaker Language Class at Lowery Freshman Center. Of these, 16 students took the Advanced Placement Spanish exam at the end of the school year. Of these students 13 scored high enough to receive college credit through the A/P College Board program. This was a very

	significant step for these students – many of whom have never even visited a college campus nor had a family member who attended or completed any advanced academics. These students now have college credit ready for them when they finish high school.
<b>Instructional Supplies or Resources</b>	Workbooks and other resources that are entirely in Spanish. This includes textbooks and access to online materials.
<b>Supplies Budget</b>	3000
<b>Technology</b>	NA
<b>Technology Budget</b>	0
<b>Staff Training / Staff Development</b>	NA
<b>Training Budget</b>	0
<b>Transportation/Field Trip</b>	NA
<b>Transportation Budget</b>	0
<b>Other</b>	NA
<b>Other Budget</b>	0
<b>Total Budget</b>	2500
<b>Additional Funds</b>	NA