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Date: October 17, 2022
To: Dr. Rosalind Latiner Raby, Director & Chairperson of Institutional Grants Committee
California Colleges for International Education
From: Jonathan Fohrman, Dean, School of Arts, International Languages, & Ethnic Studies
MiraCosta College
Re: Final 2020-2021 CCIE Institutional Grant Report

MiraCosta College Co-curricular Virtual International Exchange Umoja-Burkina Faso

We started this project early in 2022 when a connection was established with the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce et d'Informatique de Gestion (ESCO-IGES <https://www.esco-iges.com/>), a private institute in Burkina Faso. We connected with ESCO-IGES, and more specifically with Dr. Salifou Dabo, who is responsible for the International Languages Lab at the institution, via the COIL Connect platform. For MiraCosta College, academic counseling faculty, Don Love and Nathan Klein, were involved as well as Prof. Andrea Petri (Italian faculty).

From March to May the team had regular meetings to plan our International Virtual Exchange. Among other things, the group determined the following:

- Modality of the exchange (a synchronous and asynchronous online collaboration)
- Type of engagement and collaboration (it would be a student-to-student interaction)
- Environment where the exchange would take place (a free Canvas shell was identified and tested to work between the two institutions)
- A first draft of the work students would be doing (with topic to be developed during the students' interactions)
- Length of the program (identified in 6 weeks for this first pilot program)
- Possible time to deployment (October-December 2022)

All decisions were agreed by both parties, and each had comparable input into the final program design.

Unfortunately, in mid-May, Dr. Salifou Dabo, suffered a heart attack and had to spend one month in the hospital. As he recovered, Professor Petri commenced a study abroad trip he was leading to Florence, Italy. These factors slowed down the finalization of program plans. However, given the goal to implement the program in fall 2022, the MiraCosta team waited for Dr. Dabo's recovery and restarted the work on September 1, 2022, after the launch of the fall 2022 semester. During this meeting the team revisited their ideas, reassessed the program design, and decided the dates the program would run. This involved:

- Confirming the modality of the exchange (as a synchronous and asynchronous online collaboration)
- Confirming the type of engagement and collaboration (it would still focus on student-to-student interaction)
- Confirming the platform on which the exchange will take place. (They moved away from the idea of using Canvas and choose WhatsApp instead. They checked it against the tasks students have to accomplish and it seemed a great way to simplify things for the two groups as WhatsApp is an extremely easy tool to learn to use, much easier than Canvas)
- Refining the syllabus
- Agreeing that the program will be 6-weeks long for this first time
- Agreeing that the program will run from October 17 to November 26.

Prof. Andrea Petri, with the approval of the other faculty, created the materials and resources needed to support implementation of the exchange.

The exchange was advertised to the Umoja group, the Black Student Union, Counseling classes, and promoted via Instagram accounts.

For this work, Prof. Don Love and Prof. Andrea Petri were paid \$1,250 each. Although Prof. Nathan Klein's remuneration wasn't included in the grant, he is/was eligible to submit for payment through the MiraCosta College Flex/Professional Development program.



MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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February 28, 2022

Dr. Rosalind Latiner Raby, Director
California Colleges for International Education

Re: Preliminary CCIE Institutional Grant Report

Dear Dr. Latiner Raby,

As of the time of this writing, MiraCosta College faculty Don Love (counselor and UMOJA advisor) and Andrea Petri (VIE/COIL Coordinator & Chair of International Education Committee) have started work on the co-curricular Virtual International Exchange. In this first phase, they pursued different leads for possible partners at different African Universities. In the hope of improving they reached out to faculty at assorted institutions and countries. The faculty made a connection at the University of Yaoundé, in Cameroun, which is their top choice for the project. They also reached out to the St. Augustine University in Tanzania where another MiraCosta faculty had already completed an exchange. Two other options are the Institute of Earth Sciences in Dakar, and the Polytechnic School of Thiés, in Senegal. If none of these contacts turns out to be committed to a virtual exchange, the faculty plan to contact other institutions which are part of the COIL Connect network, including: Durban University of Technology, University of Free State, and University of Limpopo, all of them based in South Africa. Our goal remains to establish a commitment for the exchange during the spring 2022 semester and then to implement the exchange in fall 2022.

No funds from the grant have yet been used while still in the outreach phase. Our hope is that an agreement with one of the prospective partners will come to fruition in the coming weeks so that collaborative planning can begin in earnest.

We appreciate CCIE's support and look forward to hopefully reporting more in the coming months!

Sincerely,

Jonathan Fohrman
Dean, School of Arts & International Languages

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