

SAMPLE GRANT APPLICATION: INVOLVING NEW TEACHERS

Goals of Project:

1. To financially assist university and college students who volunteer to be presiders at the MN Council on the Teacher of Languages and Cultures Fall Conference
2. To encourage future world language teachers to join and participate in our professional state language teacher organization
3. To enrich the methods education of future language teachers by their attendance at the state language conference sessions.
4. To facilitate networking capability of language methods students who attend the state conference through their participation at our international conference dinner.

Audience: Graduate language students studying to become world language educators.

Benefits: We believe that the future of our profession rests with these young people now attending the colleges and universities. We are concerned with a perceived drop in participation by our younger teachers in the state teaching organizations. As members of state, regional and national language organizations, we know the benefits that have resulted by participation in these bodies, both in enrichment of our skills and in personal friendships and professional support. We therefore believe that one vital way to stimulate interest in our organization, and consequentially in others besides, is to facilitate participation in our fall conference, both as a volunteer and attendee. Our board works very hard each year to provide a rich variety of teaching sessions as well as a wonderful forum to showcase people who have contributed to the teaching profession in our awards luncheon. Our keynote speaker inspires us with fresh vision for our profession, and our entertaining international dinner allows us to interact with language teachers from throughout the state. We believe that the conference is a wonderful starting point for introduction into the profession of language teaching and therefore hope, by means of this grant, to facilitate as many students as possible to be able to attend.

Evaluation of Project: Methods teachers whose students participate in this plan are expected to require in their syllabus a written report by those students on the benefits and impact of this Conference on the students as future World Language educators. As a board, we also expect to have our Student-Presiders complete an evaluation of their participation in any of the events made available to them, whether as presiders or attendees, such as to the Awards Luncheon, Keynote, International Dinner or workshops. We will compile these evaluations into a report to submit to the board and as an assessment on ways to improve the program.

Dissemination of Project: 1. Contact the world language methods teachers in our state post-secondary institutions to notify them of the state language organization's need for student volunteers for the fall conference. We would also at that time inform them of the financial assistance for the students in the event that the funding is granted.

2. Supply the methods teachers with our organization's membership forms and information concerning our activities, publication, mission statement and website

services.

3. Select student volunteers and provide them with information about the conference activities and opportunities and also a board member that will assist them in preparing them for their duties at the conference.
4. Provide a follow-up by asking the students and their methods teachers to complete an evaluation form that will allow them to give the organization suggestions and comments about their experience with the conference.

Continuity of Project: We have had student-presiders for several years and will continue to do so, even without grant money. However, without the extra assistance, students will be limited in what they can afford to participate. We hope to continue to look for funding wherever we can to help them with these costs.

Budget: We would like to request a grant to financial assist these students in their conference costs. Our goal is to help at least 25 students with \$85 per student to cover the cost of the full conference, including sessions, a luncheon and keynote speaker plus the International Dinner in the evening. This would be a total of \$2125. At this time we do not have any other means of support to alleviate the financial cost for these students. This reflects a reduction from the regular student cost of \$100, which would include membership, the International Dinner and Conference registration.