

Abstract of Project

The innovativeness of a Spanish language camp project that purposely and uniquely focuses on the needs of Xican@/Latin@ learners from a socio-cultural aspect is not only pioneering but also necessary within Dane County as the number of Xican@-Latin@ students in our public schools rapidly grows. Both Spanish-dominant and English-dominant students of Nuestro Mundo Community School will participate in a Spanish language camp to maintain the academic learning they have acquired in their classrooms during the school year. One aspect of the Spanish language camp explained in this proposal that differs from “Spanish summer camp-style” programs is it will target not only Spanish language development among English-dominant participants but also cater to the needs of the Spanish-dominant community by sharing in the cultural traditions of their families. The curriculum will target academic elementary school standards of the social sciences using culturally-relevant connections using the students’ own personal experiences and cultural knowledge. The summer language camp will end with a culminating community-building social activity where the students will have the opportunity to share a camp performance task project or artifact with the parents.

Proposal: Nuestro Mundo Inc. Summer Camp

Whom Will the Project Serve?

Nuestro Mundo Inc. (NMI) is a non-profit organization that strives to develop programs that embody their mission “to develop, manage, and promote dual language, cross-cultural educational and leadership opportunities”. NMI holds the charter for Nuestro Mundo Community School (NMCS), a dual language immersion school in the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD). Under the supervision of Bryan Grau, NMI Executive Director, I will offer the opportunity for participation in the Spanish language summer camp to all current students who attend NMCS. The Spanish-speaking Xican@/Latin@ students will be obtaining a rich language experience that will strive to support the academic learning that occurs during their school year. They will have the powerful opportunity to share and pass on an appreciation of their cultural practices with the non-Latino, English-dominant participants and their families. The students who attend Nuestro Mundo Community School (NMCS) will participate in the first summer camp in 2008; however, the goal is to allow all interested students from the Madison Metropolitan School District, as well as surrounding districts, to attend in the future when this entrepreneur project evolves over the years.

Importance of Project to the Organization and Community

Not only do Xican@/Latin@ learners need excellent educational opportunities; they also need programs that address issues of language and cultural maintenance. The summer language camp will benefit the participating students as it will improve the quality of culturally-relevant experiences for Xican@/Latin@ children while also supporting the English-dominant students as they are challenged to maintain the Spanish they have

acquired in their classrooms. In addition to the students, there are many other stakeholders who will profit from the summer language camp. MMSD will benefit since Nuestro Mundo is a public school and currently school district does not offer any academic-type classes over the summer that support MMSD students who attend a dual language school. A Spanish language camp will be advantageous for the teachers at NMCS since the students will continue expanding on academic language skills over the summer. Communicating in multiple languages is of growing importance in our global and local economy. Developing a biliterate workforce that serves Spanish-speaking clients and employees alike represents a critical need for area businesses, governmental agencies, and non-profit service organizations.

Learning Outcomes and How They Will Be Measured

One of the essential pieces needed to meet the project's goal is to create a culturally relevant curriculum that authentically enriches language maintenance and cultural knowledge. As a Teach for American (TFA) alum, as well as having 10+ years of teaching experience in bilingual and dual immersion educational programs, I am well skilled to develop academic curriculum to be used in a summer program with rich language experience. I have also created and successfully implemented other events for NMCS families in the past. I have recruited a highly qualified dual language teacher from Nuestro Mundo Community School who accepted my offer to co-develop the curriculum.

The curriculum will be based on the social science standards for the MMSD. Within the discipline of social science, the curriculum will ask students to use their own family

histories to connect to the academic benchmarks within the discipline of social science to make enhance students' connection to social science/history as it is seen from a more culturally-relevant lens. The established rubric will measure an end-of-program project done by students. The rubric will gauge how well learners were able to connect their own cultural experiences with social science. Ultimately, I would like to create a performance task that the students would present to families at an end-of-program celebration. The newly established NMI Summer Language Camp will become a permanent component of the NMI Summer Parent Workshops that have taken place for the past three years. While the parents are in parent support/community building workshops, the students will be attending the summer camp. At the end of the summer camp/workshops, we will have a Sábado Gigante fiesta, where the students can showcase their end-of-program projects to those who participated in the activities in the summer.

Learning Objectives and Career Growth

As a final step to my project I wish to follow-up the NMI Summer Camp 2008 with a qualitative research study. As a graduate student in the department of Curriculum & Instruction, my research interests focus on how educational issues impact Xican@/Latin@ learners. I cannot think of a more powerful way of honoring the Xicano/Latino families who participate in this pilot project than by sharing their stories about why maintenance of their language and traditions is important. My ultimate goal is to use this intern experience as the foundational planning for a research project that will ultimately turn into a doctoral dissertation.

I have no doubts that this program cannot be implemented this summer. However, the amount of money secured for the camp will determine just how much can actually be implemented in the first of many summer opportunities that will serve more and more students in Madison. Even though Nuestro Mundo Community School is a public school in MMSD, NMI does not receive any district money to support their summer activities. NMI is currently seeking out grant money to put toward the Summer Parent Program Workshops. At this time no grants are pending, however, the organization has begun making connections within Dane County. Money is needed for space rental, childcare insurance and food. My interest is to develop the student experience portion of the program, the NMI Language Summer Camp. I am seeking money largely for curriculum development, program instructor, curriculum materials and community building amongst the diverse families in the NMCS community.

In a time when language is closely connected with identity it's important to concentrate on ways that our young Latin@ learners can learn English in the U.S while maintaining their family tongue of Spanish by becoming bilingual/biliterate and not transitioning over to monolingual English-Only speakers. Their support goes further than this year as the agency is willing to uphold the summer camp yearly, being that the proposed endeavor will help them meet their admirable goal of supporting the growth of bi-literate students. Since the NMI Summer Language Camp will be embedded in the annual Summer Parent Workshops, it assures that the program will be sustained as a yearly project for the NMI Board of Directors. This Kaufman Internship Program will give me the ability to be an

active participant, as well, by bringing to Madison a learning opportunity that will essentially benefit all learners.

Time Frame for proposed project

April – look into location/dates for program

May – announce program to NMCS community; begin co-developing the NMI Spanish Camp curriculum; hire teachers/child care providers; post information for program on agency's website; obtain IRB permission, if necessary

June – secure location, date and hour of program; purchase necessary curriculum material and consumable materials; post a call out to community for program volunteers; mail program reminders to NMCS community; verify research participants for study to measure results/outcomes of program

July – implement program for 5 weeks; collect data for research paper during fall '08 semester

August – reflection of program; meet with planning committee to analyze successes and areas of improvement

September – plan an independent study with grad school advisor, Gloria Ladson-Billings, to be completed and ready to present by the end of fall semester.

NMI SUMMER CAMP PROJECTED BUDGET 2008

An estimated budgetary overview describing project expenses and how they intend to be met

Category	Detail	Amount
Curriculum Development	4 hr/day x 7 days x \$35/hr x 2	\$980
Summer camp teacher	4 hr/wk x 5 wk x \$5/hr x 1	\$700
Curriculum materials	Books, paper,	\$200
Promotional costs	Flyers, mailers	\$100
Program participant incentive	Stipends, final celebration	\$700

The expenses listed will be covered by the \$3000 Summer/Fall 2008 internship stipend.

Category	Detail	Amount
Facility rental	6 events (5 workshops + SG) – custodial fees	\$1000

Since NMI does not have a permanent building, facility rental is needed for the summer camp. The \$1000 allotted to the organization can support the facility rental costs.