

WAESOL Project Funding Grant Recipient Report

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The Gonzaga ESL Community Outreach (GECO), established in 2012, is a community-based ESL program which provides a weekly two-hour free ESL class to immigrants and refugees adults in Spokane. It is student-run and is sustained on the manpower and dedication of Gonzaga University students acting as volunteer teachers. Participants gain valuable teaching experience while engaging with the community.

GECO students represent 21 different countries (Belarus, Chile, Ghana, Haiti, India, Kazakhstan, Peru, Taiwan, Uruguay, Ethiopia, Marshall Islands, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Mexico, Brazil) and speak 16 languages (French, Chinese, Creole, Farsi, Romanian, Ukrainian, Telugu, Amharic, Fur, Dari, Marshallese, Vietnamese, Arabic, Russian, Spanish, English). GECO has developed into a multi-level, multilingual program. In Spring 2018, 26 Gonzaga University graduate and undergraduate students participated as teachers, mentors, and coordinators. Student-teachers and mentor volunteers average 9 hours or more per semester.

The program has expanded considerably due to the interest among the Spokane immigrant and refugee communities. In Spring 2018, GECO began offering afternoon workshops to provide GECO students the option for extended learning on Saturday afternoons, such the Tips for Job Interviewing workshop. Since the beginning of the program, GECO has grown from an average of 6 students to 25 with a total student base of over 50. In Spring 2018 attendance increased by 43%.

However, the increasing demand on resources has begun to jeopardize the continued growth of the program and ability to offer need-based workshops. Receiving the WAESOL Project Funding Grant would give GECO the opportunity to continue

growing as well as to continue hosting workshops specific to student learning interests. We would use a portion of the grant to continue providing materials such as notebooks, writing utensils, and snacks. Additionally, we provide a small lunch option for students who attend afternoon workshops because they are on campus for four hours. Providing lunch has increased student concentration during the afternoon workshops and overall attendance. The attached budget details how the grant would be allocated for Spring 2019.

GECO is a community outreach class and teacher training program. Not to be ignored, the GECO students are a valued within the GECO program. They contribute to the education of one another and to the ESL student-teachers. GECO is not viewed as 'serving the community', rather it's creating the space for a community to be built, a community where everyone has something to learn and something to teach.

The budget for spring 2019

50-page spiral notebooks: 50 at \$1.00

Pre-sharpened Pencils: 1 at \$12.00

Pink Erasers 12 pack: 1 at \$4.98

Whiteboard markers 12 pack: 1 at \$17.99

Snack funds (13 classes): 13 at \$15.00

Workshop Catering: 4 at \$55

Total: \$499.97

**To apply for the Project Funding Grant please go to:
WAESOL Grants & Awards**

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