

2006 Mosal Award Application
I. Project Proposal

1. **Title of Project:** Learn to Speak Spanish:
2. **Purpose of Project:** To be able to orally communicate with Spanish speaking people, particularly with the students and educators in the Hispanic community of Oaxaca, Mexico, with whom Oakland Community College has a student exchange program.
3. **Project Summary:** My proposed plan is to travel to Oaxaca, Mexico, and immerse myself in a one month intensive study of Spanish. In a school run by *Bridge-Linguatex Language Study Abroad*, I would participate in 4 hours of small group instruction and two hours of private tutoring five days a week for four weeks. To reinforce this instruction, I would stay with a host family. While there I would also use free time in the evenings and on weekends to see as much of Mexico and explore as much of the culture as I am able.

The objectives of this project are several:

- ✦ I wish to expand my abilities to communicate with the global community, thereby enhancing my knowledge and skills to make global/multi-cultural education a central theme in the English Composition II classes that I teach, classes which emphasize critical thinking and writing a research paper. My experiences with the Oaxaca culture will broaden and deepen my abilities to guide my students in the examination of the global dynamics of living on this planet. Moreover, it is my hope to include as part of this course a correspondence between my students and college students in Oaxaca.
- ✦ November 1-6, 2005, I was one of six Oakland Community College faculty selected to visit Oaxaca, Mexico, to be introduced to the culture and to dialogue with Oaxaca college teachers about how we can improve the educational experiences of students who participate in the student exchange program we have between our colleges. I plan to continue working with this exchange program, and I believe that my becoming orally conversant in Spanish will enrich my understanding of Spanish cultures and will enable me to work more effectively with the students, faculty, and administrators in Oaxaca, Mexico.
- ✦ I serve on the College Global Education Committee, which, among other things, coordinates and raises funds to support the OCC/Oaxaca Student Exchange Program. My experiences in language and culture studies in Oaxaca will enhance my knowledge and abilities to be an effective member of this committee.

4. Personal Statement: My professional growth goals have been addressed in Section 3, above. My personal growth goals relate to two personal interests I have:

- ✦ I have been interested in multi-cultural studies most of my life. This has been reflected in my doing Native American Indian Dances for the past 46 years and being married to an Asian Indian woman for the past 32 years. Additionally, my Ph.D. work included 5-day on-site seminars studying cross-cultural dynamics in Hawaii, studying Native American cultures in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and studying sacred places of the Anasazi Indians in Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado.
- ✦ I studied French for three years in college, learned to read and write it, but never learned to speak it or to understand it when spoken by others. I also studied one semester of Spanish in the classroom. Again I found myself able to learn to read and write it, but I continued to feel flustered and intimidated when trying to communicate orally. I am convinced that for me to learn to orally converse in any language, I need to immerse myself in a culture where that language is spoken. I propose this project to confront my feeling intimidated: I will immerse myself in a culture where little English is spoken and I am forced to learn to speak the language of the Latino people I am conversing with.

5. Timeline: My plan would be to travel to Oaxaca sometime over July and August, 2006. If reservations permit, I would prefer to begin my study in late June or early July so that I would be in Oaxaca during the two week July festival, where the seven native tribes of the region come together to share their dances, food, and other aspects of their cultures.

The formal part that I am using the funds for would be complete when I return to Michigan in August. However, in the fall I would continue to build my work on what I learned during this Mexico experience. In September I would be re-introducing global/multicultural themes back into the critical thinking/research course that I teach. I would be continuing my work with the College Global Education Committee. I would be taking Spanish classroom courses and practicing speaking Spanish with computer software to build on the speaking and writing skills that I learned in Mexico. Additionally, at present I am one of the prime candidates for escorting the OCC students who go to study in Oaxaca in July 2007; therefore, I would use the year to prepare for this experience.

6. Budget:

Round trip Airfare from Detroit to Oaxaca	\$1,005
Car Rental for Month	\$771-1188
Gas for Car	\$150-300
<i>Bridge-Linguatec Language Study Abroad</i> fees for four weeks of group+ classes	\$1,401
Textbooks, Reference Books, & Writing Materials	\$100-200
Four weeks of accommodations with host family	\$647
Lodging while traveling in Mexico	\$300-600
Meals when away from host family	\$400-800
Entrance to Museums, Cultural Events, Etc.	\$100-200
Miscellaneous (Phone Calls, tips, travel guides, local newspapers and Magazines)	<u>\$100</u>
Total*	\$4,974-6,641

***Any expenses above \$5,000 will be paid out of my own pocket.**

Note : A university in Oaxaca is looking into the possibility of designing a special intensive course for me to participate in. If this were to happen, it is possible I would do my study of Spanish there instead of with *Bridge-Linguatec Language Study Abroad*. Should this happen, it is likely that alternative lodging will be arranged