

Juniata College Pilots “Language in Motion”

Juniata College’s Language in Motion pilot project is a cooperative outreach program designed to enrich the education and lives of both Juniata students and local rural high school students. International students, upper-level language students, and those who have returned from study abroad experiences, with the help of Juniata faculty, will develop and deliver language and culture enrichment activities to area high schools.

The fall 2000 term was spent initiating conversations among the different participants. Brainstorming meetings, pilot activity development, a day-long workshop for teacher and Juniata students, and some high school classroom visits for observations. During the spring, Juniata students will refine and implement the activities. One set will be delivered through distance learning.

The project has the following goals:

- To provide opportunities for the participating college students to work together on meaningful volunteer projects related to culture and language, and by so doing, to expand their knowledge of their own culture.

To provide international students with opportunities to experience and enrich the local culture.

To create long term links between area language teachers and the resources of the college.

To enhance and diversify the cultural and conversational content of high school language programs and increase appreciation of global diversity.

To demonstrate the relevance of second language study to rural high school students and increase the probability that such students will continue language study in college or through study abroad.

It is hoped that this pilot project will expand to a much larger project at Juniata College next year and, ultimately, be developed across the state.

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