

Language program awarded nat'l prize

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Juniata College's international culture outreach program, Language in Motion has received one of three 2001-2002 Andrew Heiskell Awards for Innovation in International Education from the Institute of International Education (IIE). The Heiskell awards honor outstanding initiatives in international higher education.

Juniata's Language in Motion program, which debuted in 2000-2001 through a grant from the Cooperative Grants Program of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, received their award in the Internationalizing the Campus category. The award includes a \$1,000 stipend.

Representatives from Language in Motion program will receive their award in a ceremony April 17 in Washington, D.C.

"These are awards for innovation, and it's very exciting to get national recognition for our program," says Deborah Roney, coordinator for Language in Motion. "It has always been our focus to create an international outreach program that other institutions can use as a model and the recognition of the program shows that Language in Motion is worthy of replication."

Language in Motion uses international students, students recently returned from the college's study abroad programs, and students who have completed upper-level language classes to present language and cultural materials and activities in public school classrooms. Students have visited five area high schools and several seventh and eighth grade classes in Huntingdon, Bedford and Blair counties.

"It was good to have the students work with a student who has had travel experience and can bring a contemporary element to the classroom," says Chris Gardner, a Spanish teacher at Huntingdon Area High School. "The (Juniata) student's enthusiasm was infectious and the students enjoyed her presentation."

The project, funded this year by a grant from the William P. and Frances C. Nyce Scholarship for Study in Latin America, emphasizes French, German, Russian and Spanish language classes. Juniata students who know one of those languages will bring in a language-based activity or a presentation on the culture of a particular foreign country.

In a Spanish class, for example, an international student from Ecuador, or an American student who studied in Mexico, may teach a class on local slang or on the music of the country. Presentations are done partially or entirely in the language being taught in that classroom. Barb Dearing, French teacher at Huntingdon Area High School notes, "The students got exposure to an aspect (of French culture) that I don't normally discuss with my class."