

2-12-2018

A Dream(er) to teach

University of Dayton

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation

University of Dayton, "A Dream(er) to teach" (2018). *News Releases*. 11053.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/11053

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlange1@udayton.edu.



Monday February 12, 2018

A Dream(er) to teach

They are Dreamers, refugees and other men and women who have returned to their native countries or been deported from the U.S. Today, while their futures may seem uncertain, they have a new opportunity: to earn a certificate from the University of Dayton that will allow them to teach English as a foreign language and create a pathway to a new life.

Fifteen people are enrolled in the inaugural Dreamers Program, a partnership based in Mexico between the University; Grupo SM, a publishing company based in Spain; and its foundation, Fundación SM. The program was created to help meet the demand for English teachers in Mexico, where the government now requires children to begin learning the language in preschool, and to provide opportunities for people who face challenges because of changing U.S. immigration laws.

“There is a real strength in these students’ binational, bicultural experience, and we know it will be highly valuable to the young people who study under them,” said Brenna Seifried, program coordinator for

LATEST NEWS

A New Phase

The planning process for the redevelopment of the former Montgomery County fairgrounds has entered a new phase.

[READ MORE](#) 

Say Watt?

A donation of a new wind turbine will boost alternative-energy research and educational opportunities at the University of Dayton Research Institute's Energy Experience Center. The 6 kW turbine, valued at more than \$25,000, was donated by OGW Energy Resources of Tipp City.

[READ MORE](#) 

Here for Our Students

the University of Dayton English Language Institute, which was established in partnership with Grupo SM.

The six-month program, which includes in-person instruction in Mexico City as well as online coursework, will prepare the students to teach children and adults. Each person received a scholarship from Fundación SM.

While some of the students in the program have previous experience in the classroom, most have been employed outside education or hold degrees in other areas.

Jorge Lopez worked in culinary arts in the U.S. before he decided to return to Mexico by himself at the age of 18 because of his legal situation. Lopez, whose parents had taken him to Oregon when he was an infant, said he hit a roadblock in his education when he returned to Mexico.

“Things didn’t quite go as I had expected,” he said. “Culture shock and economic factors kept me from continuing my college career.”

He looked for work in Mexico and inadvertently began a career as an English teacher. He currently works for an online school teaching students from China and Japan. He also instructs employees at automotive companies through his own small business.

“I’m always trying to improve since I never studied this formally, but now it’s my passion and I strive to do my best,” he said. “I believe knowledge about learning and teaching is always evolving, new things are being discovered and I wanted to be a part of it.”

Raul Becerril spent most of his childhood in California. His parents brought him to the United States when he was 2 years old, but the family returned to Mexico when he was 15 to pursue job opportunities.

Becerril began teaching English after high school and instantly knew he found his calling when one of his students hugged him and said: “I love learning English.” Though he has the language skills to teach, he lacks the instructional credential many schools desire.

National and international organizations recently recognized the University of Dayton’s Division of Student Development for its community policing, alcohol prevention, residential learning and student training programs, and annual report.

READ MORE 

“With this certificate, I will be better prepared as an English teacher,” Becerril said, “and more secure of myself knowing I have the knowledge and skills to teach my students how to communicate in English.”

The teaching certificate is a valuable opportunity for people to earn a living wage and better prepare to reunite their families, said Maggie Loreda, co-director of Other Dreamers in Action, a group focused on reintegrating returnees to Mexico, which is collaborating on the program.

“It is important for the bicultural, bilingual community returning to Mexico to be able to pursue their dreams and better opportunities,” she said.

After the first program ends in July, the partner organizations plan to build on its success with future classes for displaced students. More information on the University’s Teaching English as a Foreign Language Certificate is available at udayton.edu/international/connect/udel.

For more information, contact Meagan Pant, assistant director of news and communications, at 937-229-3256 or mpant1@udayton.edu.

SHARE



TOPICS

 [Faith/Mission](#)