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The University of Dayton Department of Languages Granted Funds for the Second Consecutive Year

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DAYTON, Ohio, May 17, 1967 --- For the second consecutive year, the University of Dayton Department of Languages has been granted funds totaling $82,866 for an NDEA Institute in Spanish for secondary school teachers. The seven week institute will be conducted from June 26 to August 11 and is under the direction of Dr. James M. Ferrigno, Chairman of the UD Language Department.

Forty-five high school Spanish teachers from 16 states and overseas will participate in the program. The fifteen member staff will include instructors from the University of Dayton and several other universities around the country. All but three staff members are natives of Spanish-speaking countries.

The institute was authorized under Title XI of the NDEA and in cooperation with the United States Office of Education. It is designed for teachers whose audio-lingual proficiency is minimal or below as defined by the MLA Statement of Qualifications for Teachers of Modern Foreign Languages.

Criteria for admission for the secondary teachers were a bachelor's degree, 12-24 credit hours in Spanish above the intermediate level, at least three years of secondary school teaching experience, a contract to teach in grades 7-12 for 1967-68, less than six months residence in a Spanish speaking country and no previous NDEA Language Institute experience.

This year, 290 applications were received to fill the 45 openings compared to the 186 who applied for last summer's institute. Each participant may receive a weekly stipend of $75 dollars plus $15 per week for each dependent while attending the Institute. All participants will be housed in University dormitories and will take their meals together in the Kennedy Memorial Union.

The participants and staff will speak nothing but Spanish during the seven weeks, even on free time. About 25-30 hours per week will be spent in class or the language laboratory while the remaining time will be in study and group activities such as lectures, discussions, Spanish films and various social events.

The participants will help plan and organize the social events which will include singing, dancing, picnics, movies, and athletic events. During free time and in the dormitories, the native informants, who are staff members from Spanish speaking countries, will be with the participants.

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The University will grant 9 semester hours graduate credit in its Master Teacher Program, distributed as follows: Methods of Teaching Spanish (2), Advanced Language Skills (Spanish) (2), Applied Linguistics (Spanish) (2), Contemporary Hispanic American Civilization (2) and Techniques of the Language Laboratory (1).

Another feature of the Institute is a Demonstration Class composed of 7th, 8th and 9th grade area students who have had no previous course in Spanish. The participants will observe one of the staff members conduct the class and each will have an opportunity to take over. The participating junior high students attend class for 50 minutes each day and spend one hour each week in the language laboratory. These students learn Spanish by speaking and listening to it.

In addition to the Demonstration class, selected participants will have their teaching methods recorded on tape to be viewed by them and the other participants and staff for comment and criticism. The participants will also be given a "Shock Treatment" which will consist in a two week program in Tagalog, a Philippine language with which they are not familiar. The purpose of this is to give the participants some idea how their students feel when confronted with Spanish for the first time.

Fifteen such NDEA Spanish Institutes were sponsored last summer throughout the country and when the statistics from these were compiled, UD's Institute ranked in the top five in the areas of listening ability, applied linguistics and professional preparation. This improvement was determined by the results of tests given to the participants both before and after the Institute.