

APPROVE THE PARTICIPATION OF SIMEON CAREER ACADEMY IN A LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL IMMERSION PROGRAM TO MEXICO CITY, OAXACA, AND ACAPULCO, MEXICO AND AUTHORIZE TRAVEL EXPENSES RELATED TO THE PROGRAM

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Approve the participation of twenty-five (25) Simeon Career Academy students in a foreign language and cultural immersion program to Mexico City, Oaxaca, Acapulco, Mexico from March 28th through April 6th, 2006 and authorize travel expenses related to the program if any.

USER: Simeon Career Academy
8147 S. Vincennes Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60620
(773) 535-3200
Mr. Leonard Kenebrew, Principal

PROGRAM: Our World Language Program at Simeon Career Academy will send students to Mexico City from March 28, 2006 through April 6, 2006.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE/OUTCOMES: Reasons for students to travel abroad vary. Many students have not traveled outside the United States or even outside of Chicago. It is strongly believed that students learn a second language best when they are immersed in the language and culture. By traveling to Mexico City, the students will have the opportunity to fully indulge in not only the Spanish language, but also in the daily culture. This will be a great opportunity for the students to use everything that they have learned within the classroom. The students will verbally, audibly, visually and kinesthetically learn through experience more about the language as a culture and not just as a spoken language. They will experience the simple differences in cultures that they have read about, such as transportation, atmosphere and environment not to mention flying for the first time for many. Overall we will give our students a life time opportunity to study a world language in a unique way; to be able to travel to a new place and discover the culture, heritage and way of living of those in a different country. During this voyage the students will have the opportunity to explore cultural institutions and historical sites as they experience language immersion and contemporary Spanish life and culture. The students and their teachers/faculty will follow a prescribed itinerary of field trips to sites of historical and cultural interest related to the curriculum.

This will be my (Ms. Imelda Meza) 3rd year doing this program and I have seen first hand the impact that it has and can have on these students. As one of my students told me last year, "Senorita Meza I have to admit that the first time I traveled with you I didn't really like it, but not because it wasn't pretty but because it was...different. Now I know that the exposure of traveling is an unforgettable life changing experience." This student traveled two years in a row with me and went on to study abroad in Puerto Rico as a freshman in college and she learned that different doesn't mean bad.

Benefits in traveling abroad give the students a new frame of reference for understanding the world and their role in it, and provide cultural exposure, as well as leadership, job opportunities, and your own self-education.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS/TRIP INFORMATION: Arrangements for this program are made by EF Educational Tours tour consultant.

COST: The per pupil cost is \$1495 which includes transportation, meals, hotel accommodations, health and accident insurance coverage providing protection against bodily injury or death. Funds for the excursion are provided by parents, grants, and fund-raising activities so that no student is excluded for financial reasons.

CHAPERONES: Supervision of students will be provided for this program pursuant to Board Report 03-0527-PO01 ("Policy on Student Travel"), including proper ratio of students to adults.

The ratio of chaperone to student is 1:6. Traveling with students will be Mrs. Dianne Harmon (Department Chair), Ms. Imelda Meza (Teacher), Mr. Marques Riley (Teacher), Mrs. Raelyn Riley (Assistant Principal) and Mr. John Love Jordan (Parent and Teacher).

PARENTAL CONSENT: Written parental consent and release forms for each student are on file at Simeon Career Academy.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the President and Secretary to execute any travel agreements necessary for this program.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Not applicable.

LSC REVIEW: The Local School Council at Simeon High School is Non-Active at this time.

FINANCIAL: No cost to the Board.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

Inspector General – Each party to any agreement shall acknowledges that in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Chicago Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

Conflicts – The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3 which restricts the employment of or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

Contingent Liability – Any agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

Approved for Consideration:

Approved:



BARBARA EASON-WATKINS
Chief Education Officer




ARNE DUNCAN
Chief Executive Officer

Noted:



JOHN MAIORCA
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



PATRICK J. ROCKS
General Counsel