

WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

Testimonials from Bilingual Fellows Morelia, Mexico, Summer 2008

“I feel more prepared to educate immigrant children of different generations in my classroom, more prepared to communicate with their families, and more confident as an ally for Mexican-American children in general. . . . After exploring the cultural differences between white, middle class America and immigrant children I understand that I may never fully understand our differences, but I am able to empathize.”

~Kylie Bayer

“My experiences in Mexico have been life altering to the core. . . . Having the chance to be immersed in Mexico with the language and taking an education class focusing on Mexican students has been one of the most beneficial set of academic classes I have taken in my whole college career. . . . Mexico and my experiences here will forever have a place in my heart.”

~Julia Vincent

Immigrants cross for a better life
Many face sadness, frustration and strife
A new understanding of all they go through,
New ideas and thoughts of what I might do.

Stereotypes broken, Spanish words spoken
New culture and country and people now known
New love and compassion in me has grown
Courage and strength to travel far away
An experience to have and a memory to stay!

~Elise Andersen

“Learning about others has helped me learn about myself; my inner self. As you take in a different culture you also leave or share a portion of your own. Acculturation is a beautiful thing: to indulge in the food, dance, music, and general ways of life while strengthening your own traditions and beliefs is to be a true lover of learning: therefore a true lover of life. . . .

This experience will and has affected my life in many ways. I feel like a stronger being, full of passion, intelligence and drive toward the goal of advocating a world for ‘us,’ not ‘them and us.’”

~Joyce Coskey

“This has been the most amazing experience I have ever had. . . . When I first starting planning this trip I never would have thought in my wildest dreams that it would be so impacting. Not only have I had the chance to further pursue my dream of becoming bilingual, but I have also had the opportunity to broaden my horizons in another culture, another place, another way of life.”

~Adair Wolf

Bilingual Teacher Program

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