Designing a Multimedia Website to Explore Perú

We are always exploring the web for up-to-date and high quality audiovisual materials that will integrate culture into our classrooms. When searching for videos, the challenge is to find level-appropriate content that aligns with our curriculum. On a recent trip to Perú, I decided to fulfill this need by recording a variety of videos and taking 360° photos. During this field study, local Peruvians provided answers to commonly asked questions that I believe would fit into almost all curricula, such as their daily routine and favorite food. This project will make these materials available on a well organized website, with videos categorized by topic, hashtags, and to provide accompanying transcriptions and activities. If teachers and students implement Google Cardboard, they can take a virtual trip to Lima or Machu Picchu when they view the 360° photos. Users could also contribute content by sharing pictures or videos through Instagram. Once the website is live, I will promote it through social media and at conferences. This website will provide teachers and students with roughly 200 videos and also pictures with culturally-rich content and interactivity to advance students’ cultural competence.

Beth Pachas is a teacher of Spanish at Joel Barlow High School in Redding, CT

Growing Tomorrow’s Leaders Today

The Growing Tomorrow’s Leaders Today academy will seek out emerging world language teacher leaders within the state of Maryland, across all languages and levels, in order to provide them the opportunity to enhance and refine their leadership skills. In the academy, participants will be led through various exercises to increase confidence in their current leadership roles and in seeking out new opportunities to lead as a world language teacher.

This will advance the field and quality of language instruction by giving participants the chance to: examine their current practice, hone in on what they do well, offer opportunities for feedback to improve areas where they may not feel as strong, and share their experience and expertise with other world language professionals, thus creating a pipeline of new leadership from within the ranks.

The objectives of the academy will be achieved through face to face and virtual meetings, online modules, and coaching sessions for assistance in drafting proposals for conference presentations. The academy will work towards keeping high quality teachers in classrooms by providing the chance to feel like a valued part of the educational community as a leader who can affect change from their role in the classroom.

Emily Bugbee is a teacher of Spanish at Rising Sun High School in Cecil County, MD.

About the Award

This scholarship is provided to support an individual in the development of a project that contributes to the foreign language teaching profession and advances quality language instruction. The Mead program was created to develop future leaders for the profession at the state, regional, and national levels. Educators of all languages at all levels are encouraged to apply to this program, designed to identify potential leaders in education and to support the development of their potential. Each scholarship recipient will be assigned a mentor with expertise in the area of that person's project, and NECTFL will facilitate virtual and, if possible, face-to-face meetings of the two.