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**STOCKTON UNIVERSITY  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR  
2020 INITIATIVES PROJECT**

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| <b>PROJECT LEADER(S):</b> | Lisa Honaker, Ciara Barrick and David Roessel |
| <b>PROJECT TITLE:</b>     | EUC Exchange                                  |
| <b>DATE:</b>              | May 22, 2018                                  |
| <b>CC:</b>                |   |

- *The boxes below expand as needed to accommodate your notes. You may also include/submit appendices or attachments, if needed.*
- *Email a copy of this completed form to Jessica Kay, Planning Analyst at: [2020@stockton.edu](mailto:2020@stockton.edu) or [Jessica.Kay@stockton.edu](mailto:Jessica.Kay@stockton.edu).*

**Please provide a summary of the project and your experience.**

Our project set out to improve language skills and training on both sides of the Atlantic by means of a two part initiative: the first was to establish an international exchange program between students from Stockton University and European University Cyprus (EUC); while the second was to build two centers at each university which offer students specialized skills in language learning and training. Stockton University is establishing a Translation Workshop where students will work together with the exchange student to foster a community and appreciation of the study of language. At EUC, a tutoring program was established that would use the American exchange student as its founding tutor who would work with EUC's English BA students and their EFL students to improve their writing skills. Last year, Stockton students Najasia Thomas and Phoebe Gruetter spent semesters at EUC. In the fall, Megan Coates will be going to EUC to continue the English tutoring center. This spring, Christiana Nicolaidis of EUC was at Stockton working with our students on language and translation. Stockton and EUC have initiated a student room swap, which will happen again in the Spring of 2019. Working with our EUC partners and the Cyprus Fulbright organization, we have had a very successful beginning. Comments from the first students follow.

**STUDENT REPORTS**

**PHOEBE GRUETTER**

*Since traveling to Cyprus in 2016 with a small group of students, I have been eager for the opportunity to go back. I look upon that trip fondly; it was my first chance to leave the country, and I was able to take in so much of the unique culture of Cyprus during my short stay there. Not only that, but my colleagues and I were given the opportunity and platform to present pieces of art that had not been seen in many places outside of America's south, let alone on the island of Cyprus. This trip was a cohesive, beautiful experience I will not forget. Because of this, I jumped at the opportunity to spend a semester on the island of Cyprus when the opportunity was presented to me one year ago. Shortly before being offered this opportunity, I learned that my colleague Najasia Thomas was asked and had decided to be involved with this experience as well during the semester before I would be going, during the fall semester of 2017. As I prepared my paperwork and other necessities for my trip, I was able to watch, from afar through social*

*media, the fulfilling experience Naijasia was able to have during her stay on the beautiful island. When Naijasia finally arrived in the States at the end of the fall semester along with the Cypriot exchange student, Christiana Nicolaides, I was able to meet with them to discuss in person how fulfilling the experience was and what I could expect when I arrive and during my stay there. Throughout this meeting, Naijasia was glowing with excitement to let me into the world she had grown to love over her short stay. She was clearly thankful for the experience and to have been able to grow close with a community of students so far away from her home. She gave me a list of names, places, and tips and tricks for navigating that have so far proved to be an invaluable resource. Her strong words in favor of the experience made me even more excited for this opportunity I had in front of me, and I was planning and determined to make the most of it.*

*I have been in Cyprus for about a month now, and the surreal feeling that I am really having this experience has still not faded. It is incredible to be in a place so different from my home, and it is incredibly enriching to be able to meet new people every day who have grown up in homes so different yet so similar to my own. At this point, I have been offering an English writing tutoring service for about a week. As deadlines for assignments grow closer, I look forward to working with many different students with a diverse set of talents to help them become better writers. I was also recently hired to work as an intern for the Home for Cooperation, a center for meeting and education for both Greek and Turkish Cypriots. Through both of these powerful platforms, I hope to have an impact on this culture, and I know that this culture will have an impact on me through them as well. I am taking each day one at a time, and I am thankful for each day I am able to spend here meeting new and interesting people from all over the world and taking in the experiences this place is offering me.*

#### NAIJASIA THOMAS

*My name is Naijasia Thomas and I am a senior Literature major at Stockton University. In the fall of 2017, I was able to travel to Cyprus and stay there for an entire semester. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me since it is not that often that black women from urban areas are able to travel at all. Within this exchange, I've had the chance to make some amazing new friends from all over the world, including Nigeria, Vietnam, and Poland. I have met professors who sparked my interest in things like Cyprus' history and culture, and I have grown even more curious and mature because of them. Leaving Cyprus was so bittersweet since I'd grown to love the country and its people; however, back in the States, I've been able to tell everyone I know about how amazing the exchange was.*

*I really think that it's an opportunity that other students should have and I know that more students at Stockton are really interested in how they can get involved with the program after hearing about what I've done. This exchange has made me more conscious of what is going on in the world and sparked my interest in continuing my studies overseas. I am overjoyed at the fact that I was able to live in another country for a semester and hope that many more students can go too.*

#### CHRISTIANA NICOLAIDES

*I am Christiana Nicolaides, a junior in English Language and Literature, currently at Stockton University. The two universities are different yet the level of dedication to the courses is the same. I am extremely lucky to be here, learning the American values and taking in this cultural experience. My time in Stockton has been filled with meeting new people and enjoying the multicultural community that exists here. Between my classes, readings, and essays, I teach Modern Greek to two students, I have attended improvisational performances by Stockton's students, as well as movie nights at the campus center's movie hall. Last week I was invited to attend a Black Lives Matter conference where I read a poem I wrote*

*about Cyprus. I have also travelled with the Office of Global Engagement team to Philadelphia and had a wonderful time at the Franklin Institute. Despite the cold, the environment here is friendly and the people are amazing.*

*I have learned so much these past two months and I am forever grateful for this opportunity. I met great people and wonderful professors while working in a friendly environment. This exchange is something that should continue and I will do the best I can to spread the word and let other people enjoy what I am currently lucky to enjoy.*

#### ASSESSMENT

In order to assess the success of our program, reports from the students will be collected at the end of their exchanges. We hope that these reports will illuminate areas of the program that could be improved. Through the experiences of Najasia we learned about the gaps in the visa process that made it difficult for her travel. We also learned about some communication errors between the housing teams at both schools and the administrations. Through these reports, combined with the student's received marks, we can assess how well the students were able to integrate into their communities and whether the experiences were truly comparable. Because we are still in the process of the first year of the exchange, it is difficult to tell how similar the experiences in fact were. Moving forward, we will continue to keep a diligent eye on the exchange students and look for more opportunities to engage them in campus life.

#### WIDER IMPACT

The funding opportunity provided by the AEIF grant has changed many lives already, and will continue to change the lives of those who have been touched by such a powerful exchange. The experiences Ciara Barrick had as part of the Fulbright program, which were in many ways the beginning of this exchange program, inspired other Stockton students to apply for Fulbright, one of whom is currently an ETA in Malaysia. The connection between Cyprus and Stockton was forwarded further still by the placement of another Cypriot Fulbright faculty exchange with Nicoletta Demetriou, who taught a course on Mediterranean music during the fall term. One of Demetriou's students, Megan Coates, journeyed to Cyprus in December to apprentice a Cypriot iconographer, and who now has hopes of participating in the exchange. These relationships wouldn't be possible without the help of the U.S. Embassy in forwarding these international communities through exchanges, both cultural and intellectual. With an eye to the future of our program, we are hoping to secure more funding to alleviate some of the financial pressures placed on students (namely airfare).

**Please attach a copy of your original proposal or list your stated objectives and expected outcomes.**

The goal of this project is to build a student exchange program between Stockton and the European University Cyprus that both gives students an abroad experience as well as allows each university to offer its strengths to the other. With the placement of Stockton graduate Ciara Barrick on the EUC campus as an English Teaching Assistant in the Fulbright Program over the past year, we have seen how having a full-time tutor at EUC has positively impacted the students of the English BA. EUC has asked Stockton to help build on Ms. Barrick's accomplishments and this exchange program is how we hope to achieve that. The plan is to come up with a workable structure that integrates exchange students into the campus, makes the exchange program attractive, and, most importantly, creates a continuity so that the exchange continues over several years. The means to do this will be to create an English Writing Center at EUC staffed by a Stockton student, overseen by Dr. Petra Tournay-Theodotou, and a weekly translation workshop at Stockton staffed by an EUC student, overseen by Dr. David Roessel. This Stockton student who goes to EUC will serve a similar purpose as the Stockton tutors do in Stockton's Writing Center: peer-to-peer guidance. The EUC student who comes to the Stockton will work in the Stockton Text Center under Dr. David Roessel, working with students in the translation workshop. Both of these students will gain experience working as tutors with students of another native language, improve their language skills, and gain an abroad experience. This project will help to globalize both campuses and further Stockton's goals of diversifying its student body.

**Please describe the results of your project and compare them to your original expectations. Elaborate on how well your objectives were met and how they might have changed. Note any particular obstacles that may have prevented your achieving full satisfaction on desired outcomes.**

As can be seen above, we have succeeded in our goal to have an exchange program with EUC that involves students in their host communities. In many study abroad programs for American students, the

student are abroad but are taking classes with other American students and their experience is not anything like an immersion. This does not happen in this program.

We would have liked to start a student exchange each semester, but EUC wanted to have an initial room swap to see how it went. Both sides were pleased, but by the time we arranged to continue it was too late for the fall semester. We hope to an exchange for both semester in 2019/20.

We also hoped to have Stavros Karayanni at Stockton on a Visiting Fulbright Fellowship to help us launch the translation journal (as the editor of EUC's journal, he has a lot of experience in this area). That did not happen, but we hope that he will be with us in the Fall of 2019.

**Please list any follow-up actions (publications, presentation venues, etc.)**

The exchange will continue. There will be a presentation about Stockton on the EUC campus by Christiana Nicolaidis about her stay on our campus. There will be a presentation by Phoebe Gruetter about her experience at EUC next fall here at Stockton. There was a meeting about the exchange with the US embassy in Cyprus last December, and we will have another in the coming December. The US embassy in Cyprus supported this AEIF award and have been very impressed with the results. Ciara Barrick was chosen to be an instructor for the new Fulbright fellows in DC last year on the basis of her work on the EUC/Stockton exchange.

**Are you recommending the continuation of this project? If so:**

- **What are the next action steps you foresee or recommend?**
- **What are the expected budget requirements going forward?**
- **Please identify the program, department, or division you should be working with to secure continuation of funding for your project.**

*[Note: continuation proposals must be approved and incorporated into the appropriate budget process.]*

We are continuing the exchange. The main budget item for this will be the room swap. Steven Radwanski and Housing have supported this idea, and the Board of Trustees approved the concept. We are in good shape to meet our goals.

| <b>FINANCES: Based on your proposal, please outline below how the award has been spent.</b> |                 |   |
|---|-----------------|---|
|   | <b>Amount</b>   | <b>Notes/Comments</b>                                 |
| <b>Beginning Budget Balance as of:</b>  | <b>\$</b>       |   |
| Salary Expenditures   |                 |   |
| • Stipends  | \$              |   |
| • Full-time staff salaries  | \$              |   |
| • Full-time faculty salaries  | \$              |   |
| • TES salaries  | \$ 6,000        | Paid to Ciara Barrick, Megan Coates and Julio Sanchez |
| • Fringe Benefits   | \$              |   |
| <b>Total Salary and Fringe Expenditures</b>   | <b>\$</b>       |   |
| Non-Salary Expenditures ( <i>supplies, travel, etc.</i> )                                   |                 |   |
| •   | \$              |   |
| •   | \$              |   |
| •   | \$              |   |
| •   | \$              |   |
| •   | \$              |   |
| •   | \$              |   |
| <b>Total Non-Salary Expenditures</b>  | <b>\$</b>       |   |
| <b>Total Salary + Non-Salary Expenditures</b>   | <b>\$ 6,000</b> |   |
| <b>Ending Budget Balance as of:</b>   | <b>\$ 6,000</b> |   |

*If there are remaining expenditures required to complete the project, please itemize them with expected amounts and timing for payment.*

**IMPORTANT:** *Unused funds will revert to the general 2020 Initiative Fund at the end of the fiscal year if not approved and encumbered for project costs.*

| Item         | Expected Amount | Expected Timing for Payment |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
|              |                 |                             |
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| <b>Total</b> |                 |                             |