

SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS

Summary

This project involves offering a course designed to support higher education professionals with basic working knowledge of Spanish, acquiring conversational skills, and intercultural competence. Employees enrolled in the course will participate in speaking, listening, reading, and writing activities. They will be introduced to basic every-day and academic-related vocabulary and will gain command of beginner grammatical structures and pronunciation. The course will also familiarize students with the varieties of Spanish spoken in the US and will raise awareness about social factors impacting Latinx communities and Latinx students' academic success. Beyond language acquisition, employees enrolled in the course will participate in dialogues around HSI and broader Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) efforts through culturally-responsive programming, workshops and discussions.

Milestones

- **Year 1**
 - Fall 2022 – course development
 - Spring 2023 – course launch

About Our Team

- Dr. Eugenia Afinoguénova, Chair and Professor of Spanish, Languages, Literatures and Cultures
- Dr. Pilar Bellver, Associate Professor of Spanish, Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Director of the Spanish for Heritage and Native Learners Program
- Wendy Butler, Director of Organizational Development, Human Resources
- Jacki Black, Director of Hispanic Initiatives and Diversity and Inclusion Educational Programming
- Carol Trecek, Director of Continuing Education and Alumni Relations and Chair of University Staff Senate
- Melissa Econom, Academic Coordinator, Educational Policy and Leadership and Vice Chair of University Staff Senate

Beyond Boundaries

Marquette faculty and staff enrolled in the GROW course will:

- Use socially and linguistically appropriate forms to initiate conversations with Spanish-speaking students and their families
 - Use appropriate and culturally sensitive strategies to interact with Spanish-speaking students and their families
 - Demonstrate awareness of the linguistic and cultural diversity of Latinx communities in Milwaukee and the U.S
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