

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT: 2016 NC TEACHER-IN-RESIDENCE SELECTION PROCESS**

NC Partners has formed a Teacher-in-Residence (TIR) Committee to select a person to travel to Cochabamba, Bolivia this summer (US), 2016. The TIR will assist teachers in their classes at the Bi-National Center, Centro Americano Boliviano (CBA), and possibly provide a community-wide seminar and/or meet with University faculty at a local university. The TIR will provide seminars and formal and informal discussions with teachers to improve and expand their teaching proficiency, enrich their curriculum and enhance their overall teaching of English.

The Partners of the Americas Teacher-in-Residence program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges, of the US Department of State. Each year a teacher is selected, alternately from North Carolina or from Cochabamba, Bolivia, the NC Partner region in South America, to travel to the Partnership area for a professional experience. In 2015, Mavel Vargas visited NC. NC Partners is a 501 C (3) organization.

The TIR will spend 4 weeks in Cochabamba, Bolivia (or 2 weeks La Paz, Bolivia, two weeks Cochabamba, Bolivia – TBD). Partners of the Americas, Washington, DC, will provide a round-trip air ticket to the teacher and will also reimburse the NC traveler for the cost of a Bolivian visa and up to $100 for other expenses after submitting a Trip Report and receipts. The hosting Chapter in Cochabamba will be responsible for organizing a program for the visiting educator, including, but not limited: home stay, most meals, cultural events, translator if needed, local transportation, etc. The NC TIR will be responsible for personal expenses and travel independent of the around-trip airfare. The NC TIR is welcome to add travel to the trip at the traveler’s expense.

**DATES**

The preferred dates for the 4 week TIR visit in Cochabamba, Bolivia are: leaving NC in end of June, 2016 (There is flexibility between the dates, with a minimum stay of 4 weeks). The **preferred departure date is between June 27-30**, to be available to present at the “Citywide Seminar” in Cochabamba on July 1-3, 2016.

**RECRUITING CANDIDATES**

The announcement recruiting for the Teacher-in-Resident will be advertised through various professional agencies related to the ESL/EFL field and through personal contacts of professionals who know ESL teachers in North Carolina. **(The recruitment will ONLY target NC residents, since the Partnership is between N.C. and the Department of Cochabamba, Bolivia.)** Applications will be available will be provided to those requesting the application from these sources.

NOTE: Highest priority will be given to persons who have an academic/professional background in ESL/EFL and have experience in providing workshops for staff development/teacher training. Experience with teaching and/or providing teacher training in the following areas will also be of interest:

 -testing and evaluation of Speaking and Writing with ESL/EFL populations

 -effective second language teaching and second language acquisition principles

 -developing interactive classrooms

 -teaching young - adult learners

 -promoting respectful learning environments

 -classroom management

The deadline for submitting the **signed** application will be at midnight **April 18, 2016**. Two (2) reference names and their contact information must also accompany the application. **Completed applications are to be sent as an e-mail attachment to Deborah Wilkes at deborahlwilkes@hotmail.com**

**PROCESSING APPLICATIONS**

A Committee composed of Virginia Freedman, Rick Whitmore, Janis Holden-Toruno, Karen Brown, Deborah Wilkes and Laura Cernikova will review the applications and reduce the list of candidates to 3 **by April 30, 2016**. References will be checked by at least 1 of the committee and personal interviews will be held with the 3 selected candidates. Interviews will be held on **May 7, 2016** .A decision for the final selection will be completed between **May 8-10, 2016** andthe person selected will be notified thereafter.

When the individual is selected he/she will have the primary responsibility of preparing the Travel Grant application with the assistance of Deborah Wilkes and input from Karen, Virginia, Laura, Janis and Rick. **The person selected MUST join the NC Partners of the Americas before the Travel Grant process will begin.** Karen will secure letters of invitation from President of the Cochabamba Partners and from Mery Blum, Academic Director, the Bi-National Center (and the respective parties from La Paz Partners and CBA, as needed). Karen will negotiate the details of the schedule with the person selected and the Cochabamba Partners and Bi-National Centers, and then submit the final version of the Travel Grant to the Partners of the Americas, Washington, DC, for approval.

**TEACHING TOPICS SUGGESTED TO BE DISCUSSED PROVIDED BY MERY BLUM, ACADEMIC DIRECTOR, BI-NATIONAL CENTER, COCHABAMBA, BOLIVIA**

* As a tool to improve CBA teacher’s ability to teach English and provide student-centered classroom that are respectful and meet learners’ needs, the TIR will provide lectures, seminars, model lessons etc. and other information about:
* Testing and evaluation of ESL/EFL students in the areas of speaking and writing
* Effective second language teaching and second language acquisition principles
* Integrated skills in language teaching and learning
* Developing and using interactive classrooms
* Teaching young - adult learners
* Creating respectful learning environments that meet learners needs
* Teacher training for presenting workshops and seminars

Covering this wide range of information in 4 weeks may be difficult. The TIR would demonstrate teaching methods using written materials about the topics above to provide teachers with basic information that would enable teachers to continue to use the materials when the TIR returns to NC. This would be done, for example, during on-site visits and observations of lessons conducted at the CBA, discussions with teachers and administrators at the CBA and Saturday workshops provided by the TIR on a topic/topics identified by the TIR/CBA directors.

The TIR would also be available to observe a teacher’s methods of teaching and provide suggestions about improvements using demonstrations of various new methods of teaching the subject.

Teachers at the CBA would benefit from hearing and discussing different vocabulary from what they are familiar with in their classes and they would improve the quality of their English speaking ability.

Some other topics covered by past NC TIR teachers were: how to teach grammar to children and improve their writing skills; motivating students; class management; teacher and teenager relationship in language teaching; teaching pronunciation; Spanish speaker’s problems in English pronunciation; new technology and new approach in Teaching  English as a Second language; managing learning disabilities in the classroom; vocabulary development activities; latest changes in the language acquisition process and other topics.

Check the NC Partners website at **ncboliviapartners.org** for more details about the organization.