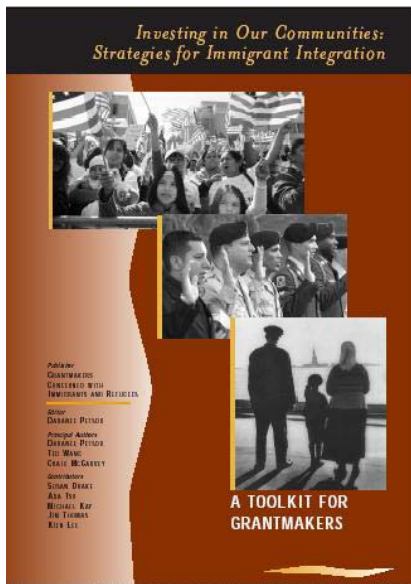


National Recognition for ECIW’s Career Advancement Program!

The English Center’s Career Advancement Program has again been recognized as one of the most effective models for helping newcomers to learn English, find employment and integrate into U.S. society as quickly as possible.

Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR) provides comprehensive information on the needs of the world’s growing and increasingly diverse immigrant and refugee populations. In the GCIR just pub-

lished toolkit, ECIW is one of three organizations identified nationally as offering model programs of language acquisition. You can read about it at www.gcir.org. See *Investing in Our Communities: Strategies for Immigrant Integration*, page 79.



“ECIW is one of three organizations identified nationally as offering model programs of language training”

Excerpt from GCIR’s *Toolkit for Grantmakers*

Eighty-four percent of [ECIW’s] CAP 2005 graduates found jobs or continued their education at a higher education institution...The average hourly wage for 2005 graduates was \$10.70 per hour, which was 35 percent higher than what participants earned before they enrolled in CAP.

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Foundation Funding Supports Career Advancement

Recognizing the Career Advancement Program’s need for diversified funding, The Y&H Soda Foundation has contributed \$20,000 to support CAP’s highly motivated job-seekers. Thank you, Y&H Soda!



Aspiring ECIW Businesswomen Practice Networking!

On November 10th, fourteen advanced level students and two staff members joined hundreds of local businesswomen at the 4th Annual Business Women's Conference, *Mujer a Mujer – Woman to Woman*, held at the Oakland Waterfront Plaza Hotel and sponsored by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The ECIW atten-



Mujer a Mujer: Woman to Woman, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Annual Event

dees had their choice of many interesting workshops, such as *Expand Your Network & Grow Your Business* and *Getting Your Started*, before enjoying the luncheon and workshops on financial planning and *Cultural Issues Affecting Women's*

Health. Angelica Vera, ECIW graduate and current staff member, was pleased to be able to introduce ECIW board member Lupe Guiza during the luncheon to the ECIW students at the conference. Angelica also had a chance to thank Dr. Sandra Hernández, Executive Director of the San Francisco Foundation, for their support of ECIW's mission.



Dr. Sandra Hernández

ECIW's Tutor Team in Action!

Students at ECIW benefit from small classes taught by skilled teachers, but that's not all. Teachers recognize that students sometimes need extra help. ECIW has a group of dedicated volunteers from the community who work as tutors with ECIW students. At the teacher's request, tutors can meet with students to help them with their class work and their homework. Sometimes, working one-on-one with a tutor can help students perform



better in their classes. Joy works with a tutor once a week to improve her pronunciation. Patricia works on grammar with a tutor. The tutor helps her understand and practice the grammar structures she is learning in class.



Migdalia worked with a tutor in the computer lab so that she could get

some hands-on, directed practice using the mouse and keyboard. Now she is able to do her assignments for her writing class on Microsoft Word.

"Teachers recognize that students sometimes need extra help."



Halloween Party @ ECIW

ECIW plays an important role in acculturating students to the American way of life. As one of the most popular holidays passes, our students experienced what it's like to attend a real American Halloween Party. Our lounge came alive to the sound of haunted screams and costumes, which ranged from Goodly Witches to Devilish Brides to crazy animals of the night. Activities such as bobbing for apples, pin the tail on the black cat and costume contests challenged our students' senses. Classic American Halloween



foods such as pumpkin pie and apple cider, which delighted students' taste buds, were paired with an international flare of foods that students brought to share. All the students and staff at ECIW enjoyed seeing each other in a different light as the scariest night of the year came and went.



"Activities such as bobbing for apples, pin the tail on the black cat and costume contests challenged our students' senses"



What does “Diversity” mean at the English Center?

ECIW’s fall 2006 student enrollment is certainly one of the most diverse ever-

*43 morning students, all female, from 15 different countries

*53 evening students, including 21 women and 24 men, also from 15 different countries

The youngest student is **17** years old, the most senior student is **63** years old, and the average age of

our students is **30** years old. Some students have not had the benefit of high school and others have completed their university studies; some are preparing for their first jobs, others are preparing to change jobs or resume their professions. Most are

planning to continue their education and all are preparing for successful careers!



Men & Women alike study at ECIW



What is it like to be a student at The English Center?

As a student at The English Center, you’ll learn English and you will learn a lot about yourself! You’ll learn to speak and write fluently and comfortably in English **and** you’ll gain confidence to study and work in an American university or corporation.

In your classes, you’ll meet other students from all around the world. Many sessions, we have students from as many continents as North

and South and Central America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Because the class size is small (average 13 students), you will form friendships with your classmates and learn about their customs and culture. And, you will receive very personalized attention from the very professional and experienced teachers here at The



A student making a presentation in the computer lab



Students at one of ECIW’s famous class parties

English Center. Several times each session there are class and school parties. You will learn about American holidays and taste foods from around the world. Often, your class will go on field trips to local museums and other interesting locations. Below this article is just a sample of what it’s like to be a student learning at The English Center.

Writing by Doing in Hannah’s Reading/Writing Class



Gingerbread houses as part of the writing process

ECIW instructor Hannah Meadow explains her unusual method of teaching writing!

In our steps to understand and learn the writing process, we use different techniques for organizing information. In this example, by building a gingerbread house, students practice organizing language around issues of space, and afterwards describe their finished project in a written piece.



The Beginning Reading/Writing Class with Instructor Hannah



ECIW Staff (l-r): Lynne Wilkins, Rimma Shchukina, Sima Brodskaya, Tony Vigo, Angelica Vera, Nancy Lam, Monica Mendez, Michael Goldberg, Erika Wong, Marcy Jackson, Nancy Taylor, Mayra Ramirez

Come study with us. We're waiting for you!

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