

“A Canadian Initiative”: Dialogue and Exchange between Wisconsin and Quebec

Proposal Abstract

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Statement Of Needs/Problem

The University of Wisconsin-Superior, in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh College of Letters and Science, proposes to establish a formal affiliation with Bishop's University in Quebec through summer French language and francophone culture courses. The proposed project will begin in summer 2002 with interactive, cross-border planning workshops via compressed video among representatives at UW-Superior, UW Oshkosh, and Bishop's University in Quebec. Participants from UW-Superior will visit Bishop's University in order to formalize arrangements for the student exchange program. Participants from UW Oshkosh and UW-Superior will subsequently visit Bishop's University to explore potential cross-border collaboration among the International Programs and Department of Language and Literature at UW-Superior, the French section of the Foreign Languages and Literature Department at UW Oshkosh, and appropriate departments at Bishop's University.

Immediate Goal:

Phase One of this project would involve the establishment of a study abroad program (summer French language and francophone culture courses) with Bishop's University in Quebec. The project would be a joint project with the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. Two UW-Superior faculty members will travel to Bishop's University, either in late spring 2002 or early fall 2002, in order to make formal arrangements for the exchange program with colleagues and administrative units at Bishop's University, establishing a long-term legal arrangement for cooperation.

Phase Two of the project would involve the development of learning objects in order to create innovative programming through links among students at UW-Superior and UW Oshkosh in preparation for summer study programs in Quebec. In fall 2002, faculty participants will confer via compressed video to initiate discussions of the use of learning objects to prepare students for study in Quebec. Early in spring 2003, faculty from UW Oshkosh will visit UW-Superior to discuss strategies for the creation of the learning objects and to finalize plans. Two faculty members from UW-Superior will make a follow-up trip to Quebec with two colleagues from UW Oshkosh to explore cooperation regarding development of the learning objects component of this project. This will also allow development of cross-border connections for UW-Superior and UW Oshkosh faculty with colleagues and administrators at Bishop's University.