IU East Offers New Language and Culture Program in Costa Rica

Indiana University East's Division of Humanities and Fine Arts is offering an overseas study program in Costa Rica during the summer of 2004. During the three-week language and culture immersion program, students will attend classes at a local institution, live with a Costa Rican family, and travel throughout the country. The course is from late May until mid-June.

“We chose Costa Rica for its rich variety of cultural and environmental resources,” said Luz Mary Rincon, IU East’s assistant professor of foreign languages and creator of the new overseas program. “This opportunity will enhance the students’ educational experience by allowing them to live in a Latin American culture and expand their professional career options.”

Rincon, who has been at IUE since fall 2002, is the campus’s first full-time professor and coordinator of the foreign language program, and she teaches both Spanish language and culture as well as French language courses.

IUE students will earn 3 credits for the course and have the opportunity to earn additional credit hours by enrolling in other courses focused on Hispanic culture and civilization. Courses will be delivered through the Heredia regional campus of the Centro Panamericano de Idiomas, which is approximately 30 minutes from San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica. Students must demonstrate basic knowledge of Spanish and get permission from the instructor. The fee of $2,000 includes 3 credit hours of tuition, airfare, accommodation, meals, and excursions. Non-IU students may take advantage of this opportunity provided they meet the minimum requirements.

Rincon, who will lead the students to Heredia, says there is great interest in the course, which she expects will quickly fill at 15 students. She is very enthusiastic about the new program, saying, “My students are very excited about it and feel more comfortable just because it is an IUE-based program.” She also sees the program as providing a more authentic cultural experience because of its location in a semi-rural area where students will live with local families.

For more information, e-mail Luz Mary Rincon at lrincon@indiana.edu or call the IU East Foreign Language Department at (765) 973-8609.

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Teacher and students at Girls High School No. 2 in Jalalabad. (Photo by Khwaga Kakar)

seeds for a larger, more substantial program.”

The Fulbright Educational Partnerships Program fosters linkages in the humanities and social sciences between U.S. and foreign academic institutions. These grants support curricul-

lum, faculty and staff development and collaborative research, and outreach activities that have a multiplier effect and long-term impact. The program currently extends to all world regions, although eligibility of countries within each world region varies for each competition.

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