

Individual Project Report

Instructional Materials for Active Learning in a Middle School in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas (Mexico)

Project Description

1. Describe the project. What was done, when, and where did the project activities take place?

Following the awarding of the District Grant and the receipt of the funds, Laredo Rotary Club members and project principals Juan and Juanita Lira met in September 2020 with the faculty and administration of the Instituto de Ciencia y Tecnología (ICT) in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas (Mexico). At this time, they conducted a detailed needs assessment to determine these individuals' professional resource needs, as well as specific topics they wished to be addressed during the job-embedded professional development program to be developed and implemented during the 2019-2020 academic year.

The information obtained was subsequently used by Juan and Juanita to order and pay for the requested items from entities in Mexico and the United States, as appropriate. Once the items arrived in October 2020, Juan and Juanita, along with members of the Nuevo Santander, Reforma, and Nuevo Laredo Rotary clubs in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas (Mexico) collaborated with ICT faculty and administration to explore potential ways of setting up the equipment and using the materials to maximize students' engagement and learning.

Afterwards, Juan and Juanita met with ICT faculty and administration to discuss specific plans for the job-embedded professional development program that was to be conducted during the 2019-2020 academic year. Discussions revealed a strong interest by ICT educators in learning how to effectively use graphic organizers, collaborative and cooperative grouping, technology, and different types of assessments to actively engage students in learning. These topics were subsequently addressed in a series of professional development sessions conducted in October and November 2019 by Juan and Juanita. Follow-up classroom visits and an examination of the students' in-class and homework assignments by Juan and Juanita revealed that ICT teachers were applying numerous concepts and practices they had acquired during the staff development sessions.

A subsequent needs assessment was conducted in January 2020 with ICT teachers and administrators to determine if they had any additional needs. The information gathered revealed a few additional resource needs and a great interest in learning how to motivate their students to become more engaged in their own learning and in supporting the learning of their classmates. Juan and Juanita, along with Rotarians from the three collaborating Rotary clubs in Nuevo Laredo, collaborated with ICT faculty and administration after the requested materials arrived to explore different ways of incorporating them into classroom learning activities. These discussions were followed by job-embedded professional development sessions focused on ways to motivate the students to become engaged in their own learning and in supporting the learning of their classmates.

During a campus-wide Science Fair held in the spring 2020 term, ICT students worked in collaborative teams to demonstrate their newly acquired concepts and skills. They designed, exhibited, and explained verbally and through technology their projects during a campus-wide Science Fair. These accomplishments vividly exemplified how students' learning was being positively impacted through the equipment, materials, and job-embedded professional development program made possible through this District 5930 International grant.

2. How many people benefited from this project?

Approximately 265 individuals benefited from this project.

3. Who were the beneficiaries, how were they impacted by this project, and what humanitarian need was met? The beneficiaries included approximately 250 ICT students, 12 teachers, and 3 campus administrators. The students' learning was enhanced through their active engagement in learning experiences provided to them by their teachers.

The teachers' professional competence was enriched by the resources secured through this grant and by participating in the job-embedded professional development program conducted by Rotarians Juan and Juanita Lira.

Students' educational experiences and learning, as well as their teachers' professional knowledge and skills, were enriched through their participation in this initiative. These combined experiences illustrate how the humanitarian need of promoting education and literacy was effectively addressed.

4. How many Rotarians participated in this project?
Eight Rotarians were involved in this project.

5. What did they do? Please give at least two examples, not including financial support provided to the project. Laredo Rotary Club members Juan and Juanita Lira met with ICT faculty and administration to conduct needs assessments, wrote the district grant proposal, planned and delivered the job-embedded professional development training sessions. They also collaborated with ICT faculty and administration, along with Rotarians from the Nuevo Santander, Reforma, and Nuevo Laredo Rotary clubs in Nuevo Laredo, to plan effective ways of incorporating the resources obtained through the grant throughout the school. Additionally, Juan and Juanita arranged for a group of ICT students, faculty, and administrators to speak at a meeting of The Laredo Rotary Club. Their power-point presentation and comments provided strong evidence of the positive impact of the grant on this school community. This experience also served to illustrate how support of The Rotary Foundation was helping to not only educate students and their teachers, but also to enhance international understanding, goodwill, and cooperation between the United States and Mexico.

Additionally, all Rotarians actively promoted the project through social media, their club and district newsletters, and during club and district meetings.

6. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was its role?
No other cooperating organization was involved.

Financial Report

Date	Description	Funding Source	Amount	%
Aug 16, 2019	Laredo Grant	District Grant	\$4,000.00	43.24 %
Jun 28, 2019	Club Rotario Reforma	Club/Other	\$250.00	2.70 %
Jun 28, 2019	Laredo Next Generation	Club/Other	\$250.00	2.70 %
Jun 28, 2019	Laredo Under Seven Flags	Club/Other	\$250.00	2.70 %
Jun 28, 2019		Club/Other	\$500.00	5.41 %
		Total:	\$9,250.00	100.00 %

Date	Description	Funding Source	Amount	%		
	Laredo Gateway Rotary Club					
Jun 28, 2019	Club Rotario Nuevo Santander	Club/Other	\$500.00	5.41 %		
Jun 28, 2019	Laredo Daybreak Rotary Club	Club/Other	\$500.00	5.41 %		
Jun 28, 2019	Club Rotario Nuevo Laredo	Club/Other	\$1,000.00	10.81 %		
Jun 28, 2019	The Laredo Rotary Club	Club/Other	\$2,000.00	21.62 %		
Total:			\$9,250.00	100.00 %		
Description	Supplier	Local Amount	Currency	Tax	Total	Amount
PE equipment for volleyball, basketball, gymnastics	Deportes Beto	\$2,528.00	USD	\$0.00	\$2,528.00	\$2,528.00
Art supplies, easels, canvas, drafting	Michael's	\$2,000.00	USD	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
8 bookshelves, 1 working table	Ivan Juarez Alfaro, Carpenter	\$1,285.00	USD	\$0.00	\$1,285.00	\$1,285.00
projector, portable speaker, microphone system	Best Buy	\$1,249.00	USD	\$0.00	\$1,249.00	\$1,249.00
science periodic charts, test tubes, chemistry games, tweezers, anatomic models, balancing scales	Crisol en Queretaro	\$680.00	USD	\$0.00	\$680.00	\$680.00
guitars, music stands	Guitar Center	\$650.00	USD	\$0.00	\$650.00	\$650.00
7th,8th,9th Spanish, History, Civics workbooks	Libreria Ghandi	\$408.00	USD	\$0.00	\$408.00	\$408.00
electronic engineering instructional material, robotics	Ellectronica Ramirez Steren	\$220.00	USD	\$0.00	\$220.00	\$220.00
Teachers Supplies	Office Depot	\$159.00	USD	\$0.00	\$159.00	\$159.00
	Walmart	\$71.00	USD	\$0.00	\$71.00	\$71.00
Total:					\$9,250.00	\$9,250.00

Description	Supplier	Local Amount	Currency	Tax	Total	Amount
duplicating paper, markers						
Practical English Workbooks, Levels 1,2,3 & robotics leggo mindstorm	Amazon	\$596.00	USD	\$0.00	\$596.00	\$0.00
					Total:	\$9,250.00