

**International Café Advancement:
providing leadership and professional development opportunities for International Café students**

Summary: As the International Café Coordinator, I am requesting \$5,000 for professional development opportunities for Kapiolani CC students who are currently participating in the International Café program.

Kapiolani CC students currently participating in the International Café and Service-Learning programs will take a leadership role in the planning and implementation of the volunteer activities and professional development opportunities funded by this grant, with guidance from Linda Fujikawa (Coordinator, International Café).

The project will directly benefit a total of 200 Kapiolani CC students currently registered in the International Café Program.

The primary goal of this project is to provide professional development and leadership opportunities for Kapiolani CC students participating in the International Café program in the areas of international service learning, business, inter-cultural Service-Learning. This goal will be achieved through providing a series of activities and lectures co-hosted by the International Café and various experts who are currently engaged in volunteerism on an international scale.

Background:

The International Café was initially developed in 1999 as a student organization at Kapiolani to bring together local and international students to promote mutual understanding through an exchange of language, cultural activities and volunteer work in the local community. Since 1999, more than 200 students participated in the International Café, many of which have continued their service to their local community while they studied abroad in Asia, and after their graduation from Kapiolani CC.

The overarching mission of the International Café is to develop student leadership, sense of belonging to contribute to development of individual student, promote overall student retention success and contribute service and international awareness and understanding to college, regional, national and international community.

Leadership through volunteerism:

The International Café has served as an ohana away from home for many international and even some local students. Drawing upon traditional family values, the International Café responds to local and international needs through volunteerism. Last year, the International Café collectively raised over \$5,000 through student-led and coordinated donation efforts for the Japan Tsunami Disaster Relief Effort for Red Cross. Additionally, several International Café alumni and current students took leadership in establishing non-profit organizations to deal with the aftermath of Japan's triple disaster, and published a book as a real-life account of their experience being in Japan when the tsunami hit. The

International Café also regularly volunteers for beach clean ups, Japanese-to-English translations, visitations to Leahi Hospital, among other service-learning activities.

Priority areas addressed by this project

Align with UH/UHCC/campus mission, vision, and strategic priorities as it relates to international education

The International Café Advancement project addresses Kapiolani CC's Strategic Plan performance measure D by preparing students for effective engagement and leadership in a global environment. We accomplish this in two ways; (1) by coordinating volunteer opportunities for International Café students to participate in; and (2) by empowering students to take leadership on their own initiative. Hence, we are requesting funds for new volunteer activities for current and new International Café students for academic year 2012 – 2013.

As previously demonstrated in the International Café's response to Japan's triple disaster, we are an organization that responds quickly and effectively to community needs through collective and individual action.

Focus on global learning for UHCC students and/or faculty/staff

As part of this project, I would like to invite experts in the fields of international education, civil society, international business, inter-cultural Service-Learning, public diplomacy and other relevant fields to share their experiences overseas and locally with the International Café students. The primary objective will be to instill a curiosity for life-long learning in the students as they envision themselves beyond their years at Kapiolani CC.

Address one or more of the international/intercultural learning priorities listed in Attachment A

We are requesting honoraria for a series of guest speakers and demonstrators who can impart their knowledge gained through professional and educational experiences overseas with the International Café students. Since our group includes students of a wide range of interests ranging from business, international politics, cultural studies and arts, we would like to expand our understanding of these issue areas in various foreign countries, including Japan, Korea and China.

- Knowledge of the world geography, conditions, issues, and events.
- Awareness of the complexity and interdependency of world events and issues.
- Understanding of historical forces that have shaped the current world system.
- Knowledge of one's own culture and history.
- Knowledge of effective communication, including knowledge of a foreign language, intercultural communication concepts, and international business etiquette.
- Understanding of the diversity found in the world in terms of values, beliefs, ideas, and worldviews.

Attitudes:

- Openness to learning and a positive orientation to new opportunities, ideas, and ways of thinking.
- Tolerance for ambiguity and unfamiliarity.
- Sensitivity and respect for personal and cultural differences.
- Empathy or the ability to take multiple perspectives.
- Self-awareness and self-esteem about one's own identity and culture.

Skills:

- Technical skills to enhance the ability of students to learn about the world (i.e., research skills).
- Critical and comparative thinking skills, including the ability to think creatively and integrate knowledge, rather than uncritical acceptance of knowledge.
- Communication skills, including the ability to use another language effectively and interact with people from other cultures. Coping and resiliency skills in unfamiliar and challenging situations.

Utilize community-based and/or international partnerships

The International Café will continue its semesterly visits to Leahi Hospital to provide friendship and homemade blankets to patients.

Primarily benefit students at a UHCC campus or multiple UHCC campuses

This project will primarily benefit International Café participants, Service-Learning volunteers and other interested students at Kapiolani CC. We will also provide an open invitation to students whose home campuses are at other institutions within the UH System.

Leveraged Resources

Funds

The International Café's activities are partially funded through private donations from a number of community partners, including local businesses, non-profits and generous individuals.