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(Neb.)-CSC Students Offer Free Language Classes In Spanish, French, Chinese



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 09/02/2013 11:29 AM

Photo: Volunteer language instructors Jorge Flores, Sophia Zhang, and Arby Ghemari

(CHADRON)-Three students at Chadron State College have volunteered to teach a new language to students and the community at large this year. Sophia Zhang, Jorge Flores and Arby Ghemari are international students enrolled at CSC, and they will be providing free classes in Chinese, Spanish, and French for fellow students, faculty, staff and community residents this fall. All classes will take place in the Reta E. King Library on campus, and there is a limited number of seats available.

Eighteen-year-old Sophia Zhang will be teaching Chinese on Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

This summer Zhang taught English in Taiyuan, China and visited Shanghai to conduct a short Christian drama there. Although she is new to Chadron State College this year, she has been in Central City, Neb., since graduating from high school in May. She came to Nebraska because she knew a U.S. pastor in China, and when he returned home to America, she came with him.

Her future goals include trying to improve teaching methods in her country. She says there is too much emphasis on tests, and students don't get to truly explore their creativity or develop their individual personalities in the current system.

Twenty-one-year-old Jorge Flores will be teaching Spanish on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Flores is a math major from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, who has been at CSC since 2011. He has spent the past two summers as a translator helping doctors and dentists on Baptist Medical & Dental Mission International trips. In addition to their professional services, the doctors and dentists delivered food, supplies and clothes to those they were helping. "We went to really poor areas and set up stations to help the local people. It was a lot of heavy lifting unloading the trucks," Flores said.

Twenty-five-year-old Arby Ghemari is a native French speaker from Tunisia who will be teaching the language on Sunday and Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Like Flores, Ghemari first arrived at CSC in the fall of 2011. He will be graduating in December with an Interdisciplinary degree. He went to India for a six-month stint to teach French and also spent a semester-long internship in Spain as a linguistic consultant. He studied how to use the environment to teach a language to non-native speakers, for example, walking into a kitchen and showing students the objects in the kitchen as they learn the word for each object in the new language.

Ghemari already holds two bachelor's degrees, one in English, Spanish and Hebrew proficiency for business and translation, and another in Tourism and Hospitality with an emphasis in food. "I'm looking forward to teaching the class," he said. "I like talking to people and interacting. Knowing another language multiplies your career opportunities. Over 20 countries use French, so I'm excited to help my students learn it, and in doing so, to remove a barrier from travel or employment," he said.

--CSC Information Services