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# Students help in the naturalization of elders

By **Nina Gibson**  
ESL Department

Many of our elderly citizenship students are struggling to get ready to take the naturalization exam. To help these learners, a collaborative effort between City College and San Francisco State University called Project SHINE began last fall and has doubled in size this semester. Credit students from the Phelan campus and from San Francisco State University are coming out to our campuses to tutor seniors studying in our citizenship classes. The tutors receive credit in an academic class for their work as part of service learning. They have agreed to attend one citizenship class per week under the supervision of our citizenship faculty, and are working with the same individual or small group of citizenship students during the semester.

The aim is for both seniors and tutors to gain citizenship knowledge and skills for passing the naturalization exam, for the tutors to integrate this experience into their credit coursework, and for all participants to gain confidence in themselves as learners while developing intergenerational relationships that may echo in their lives.

The following recipe seems to be working: Take 41 credit students from Political Science, Sociology, Psychology, Philippine Studies and advanced ESL at City College.

Add 31 students from TESOL, La Raza, and Political Science from San Francisco State University.

Mix equal amounts terror and idealism, second language expertise and desire to coach elderly immigrants to prepare for and passing the naturalization exam.

Place these college students into citizenship classes taught by ESL faculty at Chinatown/North Beach, the Mission, John Adams, Alemany, and SE/Visitacion Valley. Since there are citizenship classes from 8:30 am to 9:30 pm somewhere in the district, as well as classes on Saturday and Sunday mornings, tutors can find a time that fits their busy schedules.

What happens is a pleasure to watch and the experiment seems to be working. Our citizenship faculty say that the tutors bring enthusiasm and personal attention to the seniors and a chance for each learner to get drilled on the questions that may be asked in the interview and the history/government section of the exam. The citizenship students seem really appreciative and friendly to the tutors. Many of the citizenship students are gaining confidence as they work one-on-one with a tutor preparing for the exam and are pleased and grateful that a young busy person would want to help them. The tutors seem to be having a good time too, are amazed at how difficult the material is, and how hard the seniors are working to gain the knowledge they need in their second language.

Project SHINE began last fall and is part of a national community-service learning effort developing in four participating cities: San Francisco, Philadelphia, Boston, and Albuquerque. The grant funding and direction is coming from Temple University in Philadelphia, a leader in senior-youth collaborations, and is funded through the Corporation for National Service.

Many hands are necessary for this project to be a success. **Gail Weinstein** of SFSU

and I are Project Co-Directors, but we are dependent upon the good graces of the credit faculty and the citizenship faculty to take on this challenge.

The credit faculty are the ones providing us with the tutors. Those who are currently offering Project SHINE as a service learning option are **Susan Rouder**, **Suzanne Homer**, and **Tim Killikelly** from Social Science; **Jessica Sabolboro** from Behavioral Science; **Leo Paz** from Philippine Studies; and **Terry Doyle** from ESL.

Some of the citizenship faculty have as many as seven tutors a week to integrate into their teaching, but most have a more manageable one, two, or three. Citizenship Coordinators **Tina Chin** in Chinatown and **Susan Lopez** at Mission are supervising the program at their sites.

The following ESL/citizenship faculty are participating in Project SHINE this semester. At Chinatown: **Alicia Wang**, **Simon Tsang**, **Marcia Chan**, **Irene Ye**, **Thomas Lee**, **James Cham**, **Eddie Chin** and **Wayne Lee**. At Mission: **Curt Sanford**, **John Derr**, **Loren Edwardson**, **Fernando Aguilar**, and **Pat Garcia De Nixon**. At Alemany: **Sam Triplett**, at John Adams: **Judy Leatherman**, and at Southeast: **Marlene Tran**.

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## ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

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### Four transfer opportunities for faculty

The Human Resources Department has announced the following four transfer opportunities for regular district full-time faculty only:

- Coordinator, Technology Learning Center (TLC), with an application deadline of **May 26, 1998**.
- ESL Resource Instructor, with an application deadline of **May 27, 1998**.
- Vocational ESL Resource Instructor, with an application deadline of **May 27, 1998**.

• ABE/ESL Linkage Resource Instructor, with an application deadline to be determined, please contact **Terrie Pon**, Teachers Resources Center Coordinator at 241-2206.

Contact the Human Resources Department by telephone at 241-2246, or fax at 241-2335, to obtain a copy of each job announcement and an application for administrative position.