

# Intercultural Student Experiences



Cindy Kelley, Executive Director

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Hello! In Minnesota we are experiencing record breaking spring temperatures. As of this writing, it appears the Minneapolis metropolitan area will set a new record for warm weather and lack of snow in March (traditionally our snowiest month). We are all enjoying the warmth and the longer days of light. We appreciate this time of energy and renewal.

We have some exciting news to share. We are moving to a new location this summer! At present, we are very cramped in our current offices. We look forward to having more space for staff to work, the board to meet, as well as to have opportunities to share our space with the community and other nonprofits. Our new offices will be located in the downtown area of Minneapolis. We have selected space in a beautiful old warehouse. It is roomy, allows for plenty of creative space and will be designed based on our current and future needs. An inspired committee of ISE and GCN staff persons are busy making selections of colors, furniture and other design elements.

Of specific focus in our new space is the selection of as many "green" materials as possible. In addition to environmentally responsible selections for paint, count-

ers, flooring and cabinets, we are looking to re-use old materials in new ways. Taking a respectful approach to our environment is a strongly held value for us.

ISE and GCN are more than six months in to our strategic alliance. It has been a busy period for both organizations as we learn to live together in the same office space, enjoying new productive energy, and supporting our program work. Our board of directors is leading us through a joint strategic planning process



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to further enhance our alliance and our future plans together. I look forward to sharing more about our strategic plan as the board moves to approval of the new plan this summer.

Some of the strategic plan discussions revolve around how we can effectively im-

plement joint GCN/ISE programming. Many teachers have asked us if we can combine ISE and GCN programs for their students. The answer is 'yes!' Initially these requests will be custom designed programs. Feel free to ask your Coordinator if you have ideas for 2011. You may want to look at the GCN website ([www.globalcitizens.org](http://www.globalcitizens.org)) to learn more about our seventeen sites around the world.

I know that many of you are very busy either getting ready to travel this year or you are in the preliminary stages of planning for next year. If you are traveling next year, don't forget to encourage your students to apply for financial aid. We are very proud of our commitment to support low income language students who would not be able to travel without financial aid. We find that teachers who regularly promote financial aid with their students in the early sign up period have larger numbers of students who apply and receive the aid.

Have a wonderful spring and summer season and look for more updates on ISE and GCN programs in the fall newsletter!

Seeing the World in Many Layers,

Cindy Murphy Kelley

### Points of interest:

- ISE is on the Move!
- Alliance Activity in the Community
- 2010 Teacher Workshop Evaluation Results

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## Community Engagement with ISE!



Left to right: Alberto Villate-Isaza (St. Olaf College), Jennifer Beattie-Cramer, and Tracy Tomberlin at the Festival Quijote.

Over the past year, ISE staff have participated in a variety of opportunities with Minnesota organizations and events that promote cultural and language education. We understand the importance of providing community support and engagement to promote our mission to “inspire and educate students of the world...”

On February 27th, Spanish Language Program Coordinators represented ISE at **Festival Quijote**, sponsored by the Minnesota Chapter of the AATSP. This annual Spanish language competition took place on the beautiful campus of St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. Tracy Tomberlin and Jennifer Beattie-Cramer served as volunteer judges for the vocal, instrumental

and dance categories. Talented students performed pop favorites by Juanes and classic songs like “Arroz con Leche.” Schools participating in these categories included Moundsview High School and the Lakeville School District. Tracy and Jennifer enjoyed participating in this annual event and look forward to supporting the AATSP’s efforts in the future as well.

As part of our mission to promote cross-cultural learning, ISE coordinators participated in **Language Days at the Minnesota Zoo** throughout the month of February. 4400 students of French, Spanish and German visited the Minnesota Zoo and had a chance to use their target language skills by answer-

ing trivia questions at the ISE table.

On March 9th, ISE and our strategic alliance partner, Global Citizens Network (GCN), had a great time as a part of the phone bank of volunteers on **Twin Cities Public Television (TPT)**. We not only got some great visibility for the alliance, but we were able to actively support a non-profit media source that provides excellence in programming that addresses international news, travel and cross-cultural engagement and understanding. Check the website of your local public television station for a schedule of programming that is related to culture and travel. This can be a great source for in-classroom content that can enrich your world language curriculum!



Left to right: French Coords Anca Coleman and Holly Kuisle with two participating French students at World Language Days event at the Minnesota Zoo. Photo by Gina Goralski, MN Zoo

## Community Engagement with ISE! (cont.)



Front to back: Jana Stow, Keely Lind, Laura Kurland, (GCN Regional Coord Latin America) at the TPT studios.

### Next Engagement:

dinator Jana Stow will volunteer as judges at **DeutschFest 2010**, an event for Minnesota high school students and their

teachers at Saint John's University. Students of German will prepare **performances** (commercials, Grimm fairy tales for the 2010s, skits, drama, recitation, solo songs, chorus, and folk dancing) and **displays** (costumes, frameable art, models and sculpture, maps, posters, media, computer presentations) and vie for trophies, plaques and medals in each category based on their language level.

We wish you much inspiration this Spring and always!

- Tanya Gajewski

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**“Thank you so much for hosting this event. I found it to be a very valuable and motivating experience. I left with the feeling that ISE is the best group to be with when taking students on this life changing experience. Thanks for helping to make a difference in the lives of our youth.”**

*2010 Teacher Workshop participant*

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## The Results are in: 2010 Teacher Workshop

ISE hosted 149 teachers and program leaders at the Teacher Workshop. Thank you to all the participants who helped to make it a great weekend.

- Overall Value of the Workshop: 100% of evaluation respondents found it valuable or very valuable.
- I am better prepared to perform my leader role (after the workshop): 88% YES!
- I am motivated to use the target language on my program (after the workshop): 85% YES!
- Expectations of the workshop were met: 89% Yes!
- The presentations at the workshop were clear and relevant: 85% YES!



Left to right: Kristi Mueller, Tanya Gajewski, Katharina Schirg, Jana Stow and Tracy Tomberlin at the 2010 Teacher Workshop.



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## ISE Staff

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Tanya Gajewski, Director of Education  
Katharina Schirg, Director of Operations  
Jennifer Beattie-Cramer, Spanish Program Supervisor  
Tracy Tomberlin, Costa Rica & Mexico  
Anca Coleman, France  
Holly Kuisle, France & Quebec  
Jana Stow, Germany  
Kristi Mueller, Spain  
Courtney Faragher, Registrar  
Debby Bluem, Airline Coordinator  
Keely Lind, Office Coordinator

## ISE Board Members

B.J. Anderson  
Karen Brown  
Paul Ernst  
Thomas Goodman  
Rita Johnson  
Peter Wagner  
Wayne Wilson  
Sam Zordich



Samantha Kaeter, (Foley HS) just returned from her 2010 ISE spring program to Spain and submitted this photo for the photo contest.