Kirkwood English Language Acquisition Program: Five-Year Vision

The Kirkwood English Language Acquisition Program (KELA) serves Kirkwood’s second language learning community, educating international and national second language learners in English. Our preparatory focus enables students to succeed academically and professionally, using English in a variety of environments. Additionally, KELA assists students in becoming culturally fluent through a variety of curricular and extracurricular activities, and encourages the Kirkwood community to learn more about the diverse cultures represented in our program through extracurricular educational events and multicultural partnerships.

Shared Vision
To build a progressive English language acquisition program that takes into account the latest educational theories combined with the language and cultural needs of our students, the professional support and ongoing education of our teachers, and international connectivity and multicultural education in the Kirkwood community.

Major Initiatives

Ongoing Curricular Revision
- Revise curriculum, master syllabi, and required classes with input of faculty.
- Encourage and support instructor training in ELA education.
- Meet regularly with instructors to discuss courses and curriculum.
- Increase cultural education for students and the Kirkwood community.

Recruitment and Retention of Students
- Recruit from both native and international second language populations.
- Integrate a thorough and accurate placement examination that covers reading, writing and oral skills.
- Increase ELA support services, such as the writing center and tutoring programs.
- Encourage interaction and English speaking community among students.
- Increase ELA visibility in the college, in the Kirkwood community, nationally, and internationally.

Faculty Support
- Encourage and respect faculty autonomy.
- Encourage and support instructor training in ELA.
- Increase full time and second language acquisition trained instructors.
- Increase adjunct wage for ELA faculty with Masters degrees.
- Build ELA curricular library as an instructor resource.
- Support and educate credit college faculty in ELA issues.
- Increase faculty work areas and space to conference with students.

Community Initiatives
- Increase multicultural interaction opportunities, such as international fairs, discussions, and demonstrations.
- Increase visibility of ELA program via electronic and print media.
- Increase opportunities for multicultural interaction with credit college student body.
Capacity
In order to fulfill the stated vision, the Kirkwood English Language Acquisition Program will need to increase capacity in the following areas:

Personnel
- Additional full-time faculty with expertise in second language acquisition
- Additional adjunct faculty with expertise in second language acquisition
- Solely dedicated support staff for KELA
- Ongoing professional development for instructors

Infrastructure
- Centralized classrooms for KELA students at all levels
- A language laboratory for listening drills and practice
- Reliable computer technology and support for faculty and students
- Instructor office space for meetings with colleagues and conversations with students
- Space for English Language Acquisition library and source materials
- A student study area for tutoring and conversation
- Additional space for community outreach events

Resources
- Increased remuneration for adjunct faculty at MA level to attract second language acquisition trained faculty
- Increased enrollment in KELA
- Increased funding from grants and individuals

Ownership and Support
KELA looks toward the future with innovation, while maintaining the quality of what we have done in the past. Students and instructors in KELA have created strong community, and we intend to support and expand our community with increased recruiting, increased instructor and student support, and increased multicultural events.

Dashboard Indicators
- Increased enrollment in KELA
- Improvement in preparedness and success of KELA graduates in credit classes
- Numbers of trained and supported KELA instructors
- Numbers of grants and donations to KELA
- Number of community multicultural events
- Number of KELA interactions with the college community
- Increased numbers of credit college and KELA student interactions