



LETC Extra!

Improving the Lives of Immigrants Through Education

April 2006

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Jeanie Lee Takes the Helm

The Language ETC Board of Directors is extremely pleased to announce the promotion of Jeanie Lee to the position of Executive Director. Jeanie brings a wealth of experience, enthusiasm, and energy to our organization. We are all very excited about the new leadership and direction she brings to our program.




New Executive Director Jeanie Lee and Board Chairman Jerry Langan

Of course we were also saddened by the decision of Mercedes Lemp to leave. One of those “great opportunities” arose, and she accepted an Executive Director position with another educational nonprofit here in the city. Mercedes capably led LETC for the past three and one-half years, and brought significant improvement, growth, and organization to our programs – she will be sorely missed, and we wish her the very best in her new endeavors.

Mercedes’ departure presented a unique opportunity, and after careful consideration, the Board elected to promote Jeanie to be the new ED. Take a moment to congratulate her on her new promotion, and welcome her on board.

Many of you know Jeanie as the former Program Director. The vacancy created by



Language ETC is proud to be a featured charity in the **2005 Catalogue for Philanthropy**. For more information or to order a free copy go to www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org/dc/2005/

LANGUAGE ETC?

Founded in 1993 by Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church, Language ETC, now an independent non-profit organization, offers programs in English and literacy to meet the growing demand in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The school provides low-cost instruction in ESL, Spanish literacy, computer training, and GED preparation.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the spring term at Language ETC. Please allow me to introduce myself as the new Executive Director of Language ETC. I am not new to LETC, however, having had the pleasure of working with the students and staff as Program Director. Before arriving at LETC, I taught for 6 years in several public school systems across the country, from Boston to Los Angeles. The most valuable professional experience was exposure to various types of students and families. From high profile political and diplomatic families to ones who barely made ends meet, they all valued education. It was that value and goal that brought people together, and it is exactly what brings the people of LETC together.

Our staff members share the same vision. We welcome Audrey Driscoll as Program Director and Debbie Hale as Volunteer Coordinator. Both Audrey and Debbie bring extensive teaching, program development, volunteer management, and travel experiences. We are very excited to have such a strong team of dedicated staff members whose goal is to provide excellent service for students and volunteers.

I’d like to thank the hundreds of teachers and tutors who volunteer their time in helping the students of LETC. This group of dedicated professionals allows us to carry out the mission of improving the lives of immigrants through education. I look forward to working with all of you. Thank you again.

Language ETC's April 28, 2006 Silent Auction Fundraiser

On Friday, April 28th, Language ETC will be hosting its first Annual Silent Auction fundraiser in the LETC auditorium from 5-8pm. Auction proceeds will go towards daycare costs. Kid's Corner Daycare Center has partnered with LETC to provide daycare services for enrolled students, because in the past, many students with small children have been unable to attend classes. Providing free childcare has been the solution, but childcare costs have reached as much as \$10,000 a term. Our goal is to raise at least \$5,000 to help cover this overwhelming, but necessary cost. Auction tickets are \$15 when purchased in advance at the LETC office or through our website at www.languageetc.org. Tickets will cost \$20 at the door on the 28th. If you have questions or would like to make an auction donation, please email Jeanie Lee at executivedirector@languageetc.org. We hope to see you there.

Language Lab

The Language Lab provides another component of learning, serving as a place for students to further their study of English Language using computer-based programs. Teachers bring their classes to the lab to utilize grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation programs. In addition, students can use the computers during lab hours before classes on evenings and weekends. During that time, Language Lab Coordinators help students to use the ESL software to open email accounts and create resumes. The Language Lab is popular with students as a means to both further their skills in ESL as well as in technology.

All About The GED

For those ready to make the **commitment** to complete their high school education through the GED, Language ETC offers a program of classes and personalized attention in Spanish to help students prepare.

The General Educational Development (**GED**) Exam is a nationally recognized measure of High School Equivalency issued by the State to a student once specific, approved high school equivalency tests are passed. The State is responsible for the oversight and supervision of GED Testing Centers. The Exam gives people from all walks of life another chance to earn a high school certificate. **Passing the GED Exam is an important achievement that leads to a valuable credential.**

Why take the GED Exam?

The GED Exam can be the key to employment advancement, acceptance into a college, university or a technical or vocational training program, and increased self-esteem. The GED

Credential earned through passing the GED Exam is accepted by 95% of United States employers, colleges, and universities.

How long does it take to prepare for the GED Exam? It all depends on one's skill level, attendance and most of all, to the goal. While one student might complete the program in 2 months, another might need 2 years.

What are the GED Tests?

The GED Tests are a rigorous measure of an individual's present knowledge and skills no matter where those skills were acquired. The academic content of the GED tests is frequently upgraded to reflect reforms made in the nation's public high schools. Such changes are made in order to meet the increasing demands of college, the workforce, and today's knowledge-based economy.

The GED Exam covers five core subject areas required in a traditional high school curriculum. With the exception of Language Arts - Writing

Skills, which requires you to write an essay, and the Mathematics Test, which has open-ended questions that require that some of the answers be entered on to an Alternative Grid or a Coordinate Plane, all of the questions on the GED Test are multiple choice with five possible answers given. The questions range in difficulty from easy to hard, and cover a wide variety of subjects.

The GED Tests are offered in three languages: English, Spanish and French. It is the same exam with the same content in all three languages. The tests require about seven and a half hours to complete, not including time set aside for breaks and instructions.

Exam Costs:

Full Exam	\$40.00
Each partial test	\$8.00
Rescheduling fee	\$10.00

For test dates, contact the GED Testing Center at 202-274-7173

LETC Honors and Thanks Departing Board Member

Karren DeSeve, one of Language ETC's most active board members, has resigned due to her family's move to Philadelphia. However, she will continue to support LETC on our "Emeritus Board" of founding Board Members and those who have provided extraordinary service to our program.

Karren first became involved in Language ETC in 2003 as a donor. Asked to support LETC's 10th Anniversary auction, she agreed to

contribute, but asked if she could help out personally as well. She joined our auction committee, and then our Board of Directors. We were indeed fortunate to have Karren on our team. An immigration attorney with *Baumann, DeSeve & Landau*, Karren was named among the top 10 immigration attorneys in Washington, D.C. and is listed in *America's Best Attorneys*.

Karren brought her professionalism and keen insights to the work of Lan-

guage ETC's Board and several committees, including the Development Committee. It was her idea last fall to include a "challenge" in our fundraising appeal letter, and she agreed to match dollar-for-dollar the amount of money LETC raised in that appeal. Her offer to match the donations resulted in the most successful appeal in Language ETC's history! We are most grateful to Karren DeSeve for sharing her time, talent, and treasure with Language ETC. Thank you Karren!

Student Stories

Student: Juliana Lozano

Program: Sunday AM

Level: Advanced

My name is Juliana Lozano. I'm from Lima, Peru. I'm the second of five brothers and sisters. I've been in the United States since January 2001. Since I'm 18 years old I always wanted to live here in the United States. Now I'm 31 years old and I still think the same way. I remember very well my first days in this country. I arrived in Los Angeles, California in a neighborhood called Marina del Rey. The first days I was so excited to be there; it was like a dream came true, but the only problem that I had in those moments was the English; that made me feel inferior to the other people and sometimes I didn't want to go outside. I didn't want to go to the supermarket. The first weeks to me were bad. In spite of learning basic English in Santiago Chile, another country where I lived before coming to the U.S., I was ashamed when I tried to speak English. For that reason, I preferred to say nothing. I felt as a handicapped person. When I moved to Washington, D.C. in January 2002, one of the first things I did was to search for a place where I could study English; I enrolled in LETC because it is the only one which has classes on Sunday mornings. I like this school. I like my class and I like my teacher. I'm thankful to LETC. It helped me and helps people like me who want to learn English. Although this school is a charity, the quality of the teachers is great. Now I feel confident. I love this language. My goal is to go to college. Meanwhile, I'm enjoying my classes in LETC and taking advantage of all the things that LETC can give me as a student. When I hear someone who wants to study English, I always recommend LETC. LETC helped me and is still helping me. Sometimes I feel too tired to study because I have to work, but I always encourage myself, repeating over and over again that when I am in college, I'll be prouder of myself than I am now. That is why every Sunday, even though I'm tired, I always attend class because I couldn't forgive myself if I didn't take advantage of these classes.

Student: Rosa Vilma Siguenza

Program: PM

Level: 4A

I am studying English in the United States because I want to realize my dream. When I was in my country, I tried to learn English, but I did not finish for different reasons. I always told myself that if someday I could come to the USA one of the things that I would do is study English. I think that this language is the number one most spoken language in the world. If I can learn to speak it, write it and read it, I will be more prepared and qualified and I will have better job opportunities, both here in the USA and in other countries. The ESL Classes affected my life in a good way because I feel more comfortable in this country, and I can communicate with various people from different places and now I have a better job than I had. In my job, I am able to better serve my customers because I can understand English and Spanish. Taking ESL Classes is a big help because I work as a waitress and my salary is based on tips. I arrived in this country two years ago and I can say that I have had a good experience. When I came here the first thing I did was get a job, then I asked some people in my work where I could study English. One woman told me about this school. I have been very happy in this school because I have felt very welcomed. Here it does not matter where I was from. I was able to study and improve my English with people who care about me. They always are able to help me to develop my English.



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*Improving the Lives of Immigrants
 Through Education*

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How You Can Help

A small contribution goes a long way at Language ETC. \$100 covers the tuition of one student for a full three month term, including books. While our fees are minimal, there are many students who find it difficult to meet the expense. Language ETC admits all students, regardless of their ability to pay. To allow us to maintain this policy we would greatly appreciate a donation to our scholarship fund.

You can also contribute through the **Catalogue for Philanthropy** website at www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org/dc/2005/language_etc_5456.htm

_____ Please allocate \$100 to the Scholarship fund.

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