SEP-BÉCALOS-SANTANDER UNIVERSIDADES SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR MEXICAN STUDENTS 2015
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The present RFP requests the following from U.S. community colleges:

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A 4 MONTH ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL IMMERSION PROGRAM FOR THE BEST 300 STUDENTS FROM MEXICAN TECHNOLOGICAL AND POLYTECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES.

Objectives:

Following on the results obtained from the first SEP-Bécalos-Santander Universidades Exchange Program 2014, the Program’s 2015 Edition has the following objectives:

- That the scholarship students acquire specialized STEM knowledge through the enrollment in two regular STEM classes and improve their English level through one ESL class offered by the community college.
- To learn in a US academic setting, improve and practice English language skills through participation in local community’s activities, sports, cultural activities, site visits, conferences, etc.
- The Technological and Polytechnical Universities will determine the subject area that each student should enroll in.

Student’s Profile:

- Mexican low income students registered in Technological and Polytechnical Universities who are currently enrolled in STEM programs and who have a High Intermediate English level proved by TOEFL scores: 450 for paper, 45-46 for the internet version or 150 for the computer based test.
- Students who are enrolled at least in the third quarter of their program, and who have an academic average of 8 minimum.
- Students recommended by their Universities because of their accomplishments, motivation, involvement in their communities, good conduct and academic performance, leadership skills, and maturity to thrive in this program.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Estimated Start and end Date: August - December, 2015.
- All proposals should include the following:
  o In-State community college tuition (highly recommended)
  o Group acceptance of 30 students.
  o Housing arrangements; on campus housing or arrangements assistance with housing providers (fully equipped), or homestays. All issues related to housing should be considered in the budget.
  o The students who will be staying in dorms or rented facilities, should have a mentor family assigned.
  o Health Insurance
  o Books and materials
o Pocket money for expenses such as food and local transportation. U.S. community colleges should assist in holding these funds and disbursing them to the students on a monthly basis.

o Local transportation to and from the housing facilities to the community college

o Transportation to and from the airport to the community college

o Transportation passes

o Orientation program at the host community college campus

o Counselors for emotional support and monitoring

o Cultural Exchange Activities

o Participation in Club and sport activities

o Program coordinator as point of contact with the Mexican Institutions

o Monthly written reports of students’ development and academic performance

o sent to the Coordinadora Nacional de Universidades Tecnológicas y Politécnicas.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Bécalos and Santander Universidades will choose those community colleges which proposal, fully provide all the requested services, and fully operate an innovative program for Mexican students. The quality and cost of the program will be highly taken into account as well as the activities which provide added value to this program.

TIMELINES

• Due date for community colleges’ proposals: January 30th at the latest.
• Review period: February 2nd – February 9th.
• Proposal acceptance notification date: February 16th.
• The student information will be provided to each community college in May.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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