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Spring Semester 2018 Brashear High School French and Italian Teaching Assistance Internship:

### Final Reflection

Throughout this spring semester as a teaching assistant for French and Italian at Brashear High School, I gained valuable experience with direct instruction of students. I also acquired practical skills in foreign language communication, lesson planning and implementation, understanding of classroom and group dynamics, and professionalism.

The experience that I gained this semester with direct instruction of high school is valuable because it shows me what it would be like to work as a teacher, and it provides me with a first-hand impression of modern public education for the liberal arts. This is important for my future career because I am passionate about arts education and arts management, and this internship placement at Brashear High School informs how I would pursue arts education administration, policy, and reform were I to decide to embark on that career path. This will be a very useful internship experience to reflect and draw upon when I am conducting my research project this summer on creating a successful business model for financially sustainable and universally accessible arts education programs.

Over the course of this semester, I was able to serve as a teaching assistant for both beginning and advanced levels in French and Italian courses, contributing primarily to the French 4 and 5, Italian 4 and 5, Italian 2, and French 1 classes taught by Mr. Browne and Ms. Wenneker. I practiced foreign language communication with the students by contributing to group discussions on course topics and guiding students so that they would discover the correct answers to questions on assignments on their own. This taught me to communicate very clearly and succinctly. Working with high school students and observing the classroom instructors, I learned about how to help all of the members of the class succeed, and I learned aspects of the personalities and learning styles of each student, enabling me to better understand classroom and group dynamics. By making weekly site visits and contributing actively to classroom instruction, I improved my professionalism.

I independently created and taught two lessons this semester, one in French 4 and 5 and the other in Italian 4 and 5, basing them upon my previous teaching experience with the European Studies Center Advanced Program in Education (ESCAPE), pedagogical readings from the ESCAPE internship, the lessons and activities from the Brashear classes, and my own high school classroom experiences. These lessons concentrated on the observation, analysis, and discussion in the target foreign languages of French and Italian of two works of musical art: the Italian anti-fascist resistance anthem version of the song *Bella Ciao* and the classic French song *La bohème* about artists, artistic lifestyles, and ‘café society’ (‘le beau monde’) in France. The lessons taught the Brashear students vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, Italian and French history, and Italian and French popular culture and art.

The theme of these two activities was ‘the arts in society,’ demonstrating how works of art reflect the changes in a society at that time. This theme was based upon my work in the

previous ESCAPE internship and my passions for arts management, arts education, and cultural diplomacy, which refers to fostering mutual understanding between groups of people through the arts.