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FYEX 100-33

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Global Citizenship

One of my missions here at Minnesota State University, Mankato is to become more aware of both my culture and the cultures around me. Without the Honors Program, I would not push myself to develop my global citizenship competency. So far my journey of becoming a culturally competent citizen has consisted of starting to work on developing my global citizenship skills during my first semester at Minnesota State University, Mankato, planning how I will continue to grow them throughout the rest of my college career, and being introduced to the many different benefits of being culturally competent.

My first semester of college has already begun to develop my global citizenship competency. I came from the very small town of Lamberton, MN where I could count the amount of diversity on one hand, so coming to a large university was a very eye-opening experience for me. I was exposed to several different races, religions, sexual orientations, etc. I was also enrolled in a cultural geography course. In this course, I learned about a HUGE variety of cultures around the world. Another course that I was enrolled in is titled Sensitivity to Disability. In this course, I had first-hand experiences with people with disabilities. I learned about what their lifestyle/culture is. The last course that helped develop my global citizenship competency this semester was my First Year Experience class. I was taught what it means to be a global citizen. This course has formed the foundation of my global competency skills because without this course, I would not even know what global citizenship was.

I have several plans and ideas that will help me further develop my global citizenship competency. These plans include taking numerous semesters of a foreign language, studying abroad, and attending culture nights at Minnesota State University, Mankato. I am registered to take Spanish 101 during the spring semester of 2017. This will introduce me to a new way of communicating. I would like to complete at least two semesters of Spanish before I study abroad. Studying abroad will not only boost my Spanish-speaking skills, but it will also expose me to a culture and area that I have never experienced before. I have not been able to attend a ‘culture night’ yet, but I would like to start attending them next semester. Here, I will meet many people of different backgrounds. I will also be shown some different aspects of their culture. I look forward to the different adventures I will have while developing my global citizenship skills.

During the last couple of weeks in my First Year Experience class, I learned about the importance of knowing a second language and being culturally competent. According to Sangeeta R. Gupta in *Beyond Borders*, “A global mindset gives an individual the ability to see the world as a holistic entity and not as something that functions in isolated secretions” (147). This is important because in my future career as a psychologist, I will be working with people of many different backgrounds and cultures, and I will need to know that just because people have a different culture than me, it does not mean they are of lesser value. Viewing everyone as the same will lead to successful interactions in my future. According to Panos Athanasopoulos in an article titled “How the Language You Speak Changes Your View of the World,” people that speak multiple languages get all the benefits. He says they receive “better job prospects, a cognitive boost and even protection against dementia.” Speaking a different language can also change the way someone views the world. For example, Germans focus on the goal of an action instead of the action itself. Instead of saying, “The woman is running,” they would say “The woman is running towards the mall.” There are several different benefits of being a culturally competent bilingual, and I hope to experience these benefits first hand someday.

My journey of developing my global citizenship competency has only just begun. I exposed myself to several different cultures and lessons this semester, I developed a plan to become more culturally competent, and I learned about some benefits of becoming a global citizen and being bilingual. I am excited to learn more about different cultures both through classes and through my own first hand experiences.

Works Cited

Athanosopoulos, Panos. "How the Language You Speak Changes Your View of the World." *The Independent*. Independent Digital News and Media, 29 Apr. 2015. Web. 07 Dec. 2016.

Gupta, Sangeeta R. “Leading in Today’s Multicultural World.” *Beyond Borders.* 2009. 07 Dec. 2016.