Who We Are

Our mission is to provide affordable, high-quality English language instruction and other basic education programs to immigrants in Washington, DC metropolitan area through the involvement of volunteer teachers and tutors. Our vision is that all immigrants gain the education and support they need to build a better future for themselves, their families and our community.

What We Do

We offer high-quality, affordable classes in English as a Second Language (11 courses, Basic-Advanced), Computer & Internet Access, Spanish Literacy (3 levels), Citizenship and Civics. The following free resources are also available for students: language laboratory, computer and internet access, one-on-one tutoring, and job coaching. We are open seven days a week and offer classes during the day, at night and on weekends.

Recasting Their Lives

Less than a year ago, veteran journalists Claudia Rodriguez and her husband, Richard Vásquez, were covering the biggest stories in their native Colombia, among them the violence brought by both left-wing and right-wing paramilitaries and drug-traffickers.

Today, as they adjust to life in the DC area, they see the results of the stories they have covered. Since they moved to Washington, DC, the tenor of the stories has changed dramatically, as the couple made the move to the US.

Here, they are learning English as a Second Language (11 courses, Basic-Advanced), Computer & Internet Access, Spanish Literacy (3 levels), Citizenship and Civics. The following free resources are also available for students: language laboratory, computer and internet access, one-on-one tutoring, and job coaching. We are open seven days a week and offer classes during the day, at night and on weekends.

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A letter is always an exciting time for LETC. Students who have been working
toward a degree for years and are just a
step away from realizing their dream are
overjoyed at the news. Parents who have
tossed, turned, and pouted now suddenly
are rounding all the pieces into the perfect
circle. And a new volunteer who has been
a class volunteer for years suddenly shows
up as a workshop for all the teaching
volunteers. What a year this has been.
While we have had many changes in staff and
locations, we have also had the good fortune
to have a dedicated group of students. Each
class becomes a discrete unit and the school
does indeed work – and very, very well. The
key is the relationships that develop.
Many students have said that the growth
in the LETC family is due to the fact that
result in getting students lost and overloaded,
not getting the individual attention they might need.
I had worked in numerous nonprofits and could not
believe that we were able to develop a relationship with
our dedicated students. Each class becomes a discrete
teaching community, and the LETC family
started from there. For our students to
understand that the LETC and its mission to help students
the growing needs of our students in a difficult economic
The Council at a July 24 hearing called to
consider the Mayor’s proposed cuts.
According to testimony and was clearly impressed
by the services provided by LETC—
and Sylvia Moreno works with the weekenders. Claudia
White is working with day and evening volunteers
and Mary Jane Duclis.
LETC Fortunes Sag with Budget DC Travelers
E f the past several months, Language etc.
has been tracking all the potential budget
cuts—surrounding its recruiting, preparing,
digitally engaging its students, but ultimately
standing strong. We have also pointed out that LETC is
already substantially multidisciplinary. The organization
providing the proportion of adult education
services it offers—receiving about 3% of adult education funds while
educating nearly 20% of adult students
who are considered at-risk students.
Student Richard Veaple put a face on the services provided by LETC
describing to the Council his flight
experience from Colombia that prompted
his commitment to learning English
in order to make up for city revenue
shortfalls.
As an example, the LTDC Council Chair Vincent Gay
reminded LETC from the April board
meeting that the organization had
proposed a 10% reduction in the
funds provided to Let’s Go,
the organization in order to make up to city
balance and that there were few
resources to compensate
for that.
The Let’s Go Council shared this view. Happily, the
appropriation for LETC was cleared
unanimously in the final budget approved by the Council.
LETC Volunteers Step Up
B ack in April of this year, LETC
welcomed volunteers at the
economic downturn facing the
City. One by one, foundations
we’re ruled in the past let LETC
know that they were not cutting
grants by 10% to 25%. Potential
they had previously funded.
Governor Fenty proposed a 60% reduction in
funds so that LETC would have a
chance to receive some of this money.
Unfortunately, the budget
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Unfortunately, the budget
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Fenty’s cuts to non-profits
in order to make up for city revenue
shortfalls.
While enrollments and tuition
income are typically lower, the LTDC Board of Directors decided to
earmark a group that already
had such a request and
some volunteers had contributed
to LETC before ever made a direct appeal
for financial assistance.
They delivered—and how!
Calls went out, and even from other countries,
as former and current teachers
sent in checks or donated online.
All in all, over $500 was raised,
helping LETC meet its ongoing
financial obligations.
continued on page 5.
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