



May 2018

Flipping student-teacher paradigms in Western's Employee Language Program

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Palacios Figueroa, María José and Dodrill, Jacob, "Flipping student-teacher paradigms in Western's Employee Language Program" (2018). *Scholars Week*. 12.

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Flipping Student-Teacher Paradigms in Western's Employee Language Program

Heather Aguirre, Stephanie Arroyo, Elisabeth Bunch, Francisco Contreras, Jacob Dodrill, Gloria García, Roshaé Lowe, Crystal Morales, Sabrina Morrell, Shannon Ouzts, Maria José Palacios Figueroa, Charles Tookey

What is Western's ELP?

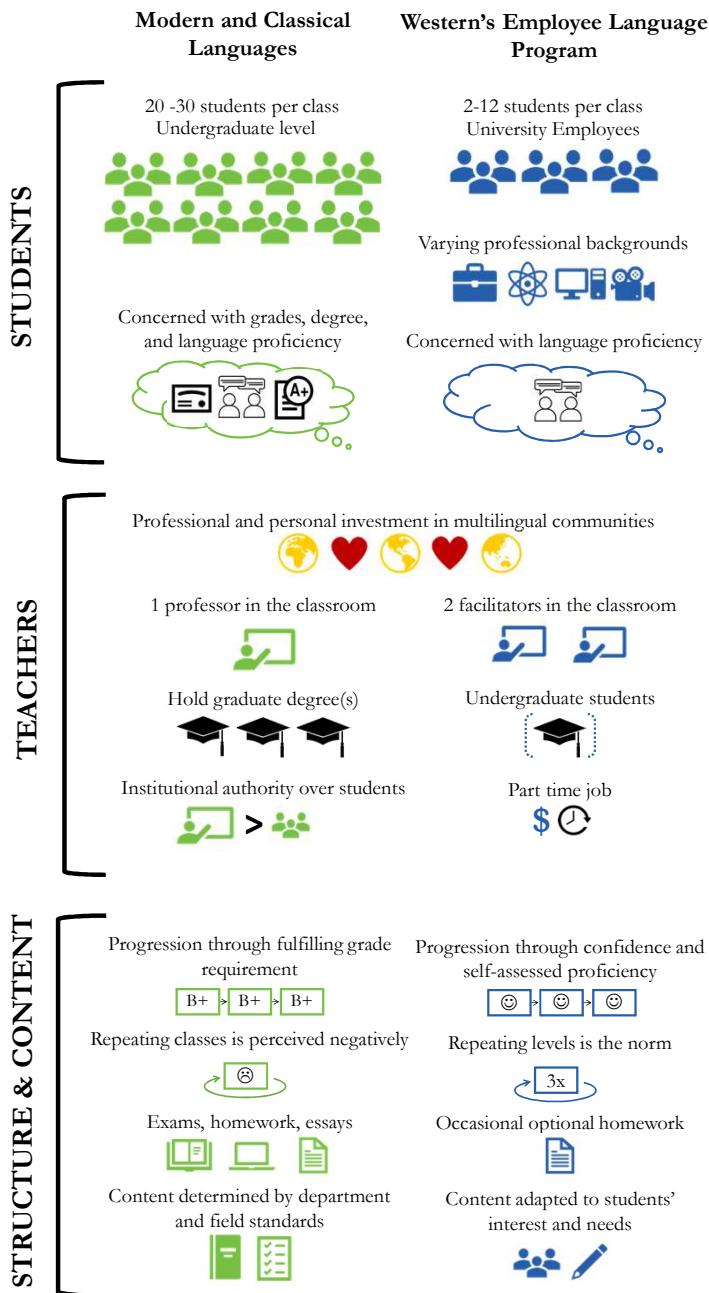
- Professional development program for faculty and staff
- Offers free language workshops, one-on-one conversation practice, and community engagement events
- Launched in Winter 2014 by the Modern and Classical Languages Department and Extended Education
- Sponsored through the President's Office



Our mission:

The Western Employee Language Program provides participants and facilitators opportunities to connect their personal professional experiences with those of the Western community and promotes the growth of multicultural awareness through increasing their language proficiency.

Comparing Language Classroom Models



Outcomes of the ELP Model

Community Building

"ELP creates this special bond between people who otherwise never would have interacted with each other" -Elisabeth (Facilitator)

Multilingual Awareness

"There's no 'mold' for a Spanish speaker, a French speaker, a Mandarin speaker, for any language. We have so many incredible and unique multilingual people here at Western and Bellingham. The ELP really helps us connect with them" -Maria José (Facilitator)

Empathy and Respect

"I have a new found respect for my professors after my experience with the ELP and have found myself using some of the techniques they used in their classes in my own" -Charles (Facilitator)

Autonomy in the Learning Process

"I really liked how I could learn at my own pace. Because there was no homework or grades, there was no pressure to learn faster than I was really able to effectively pick up material" -Anonymous Participant

Enhanced Academic Experience

"I ended up having one of the participants as my microeconomic professor. I'm usually anxious to go to my professor's office hours, but due to our past interaction through the ELP I wasn't afraid to participate in class or go talk to him if I needed extra help" -Heather (Facilitator)

Professional Development

"As facilitators we have the opportunity to develop skills - group coordination, time management, public speaking and communication, delivering accessible content, and collaborating with people from different backgrounds - that will be used in professional settings post-graduation"

- Gloria (Facilitator)