

Report on Noncredit ESL classes offered fall 2015

Fall semester 2015 College of the Redwoods offered free, noncredit, ESL classes in several locations including Garberville, 2 sites in Fortuna, on the Eureka campus, in Eureka, and in Arcata. Beginning ESL classes are offered in community locations through a partnership between College of the Redwoods, the Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE), Humboldt State University, and the site partner. Overall we served over 150 ESL students in fall 2015.

Garberville: We had a beginning level ESL class scheduled for fall 2015 at the Garberville site. Garberville has presented us with a number of challenges. Over the past couple of terms, we have ascertained that the optimum time to hold this class is from 4pm-6pm. Students have historically said that this time works best for them so that they don't have to come back down off the hill. Participation in this previously well-attended class has recently fallen off. In order to re-establish ties with the immigrant community, our ESL instructor is volunteering his time to reach out and talk to people. He has gone door-to-door meeting people and answering questions. He is also volunteering to visit playgroups and is bringing his guitar. He has allied himself with the Head Start teacher and others. We anticipate offering a section of ESL in Garberville soon once we have rebuilt community interest.

Fortuna: We have been offering ESL at two sites in Fortuna: at South Fortuna Elementary School and at the Eel River Valley Multigenerational Center (MGC). The MGC midday class has transitioned to an experienced ESL teacher who has been steadily growing the class. It began as 1 ½ hours twice a week, and midway through fall 2016 became 2 hours three days a week in the middle of the day. There were 33 students registered in this class. This class has excellent support from both the site partner and from HCOE in the form of childcare and a nutritional snack for participants and their children. Fall 2016 had two levels of noncredit ESL at S. Fortuna Elementary School in the evenings. These two beginning levels of ESL were offered concurrently, thus enabling family members with differing English abilities to come to class and progress at the same time. The lower beginning level had 22 students registered; the higher beginning class had 15 students registered. These classes have also enjoyed excellent support from HCOE in the form of both childcare and snacks.

Loleta: There was a beginning ESL class initially offered at the St. Joseph's Loleta Community Resource Center middays. There were four students who regularly attended. This class was ended. We are planning to do a needs/interest assessment in Loleta to determine the best ways to serve the people of that community. In the meantime, the classes in Fortuna and Eureka are reasonably close for interested students to attend.

Eureka & Arcata: We have been offering an evening class at the Eureka Community School, and in Arcata we are partnered with Pacific Union School. Each class meets for two hours twice a week. The instructor for both has been able to grow her classes steadily through the semester. The Eureka class had 49 registered students, and the Arcata class had 26 enrolled. These classes have also enjoyed excellent support from HCOE in the form of both childcare and snacks.

Eureka Campus: Adult Education offered morning and evening intermediate levels of ESL on the Eureka campus fall 2016. Several of the students in those classes are transitioning into credit classes with the support of the noncredit intermediate ESL. The morning class was more focused on academic support, while the evening classes were designed to support better English in the workplace.