

East Troy High School Students Getting a Global Perspective in their Education

Students at East Troy High School are getting a more well-rounded cultural experience through their education than ever before, thanks to the newly approved Global Education Achievement Certificate (GEAC) opportunity.

The GEAC is offered to graduating high school students who demonstrate a strong interest in global citizenship by completing global education courses and taking part in co-curricular activities which foster the development of global competencies. The certification has four components that students must complete:

- Global coursework (four years in a single language class and four additional courses with a global focus)
- Cultural literacy
- Global school-sponsored activities
- Global service project

Upon completing all elements of the certificate, students receive a stamp on their transcript, a seal on their diploma and recognition from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

The program at East Troy High School is coordinated by Kelly Geisert (World Language Instructor for Spanish) and DelRae Felten (World Language Instructor for French). According to Felten, implementing the GEAC has given students a wonderful opportunity to develop a more in-depth understanding of other cultures from around the world.

“It is a means for those families and students in the East Troy community who recognize the value of the global aspects of their education to not only engage in meaningful projects and community service opportunities, but also exposes those students to texts, films, music and art that they may not have been exposed to otherwise,” she said. “Students who go through the program also become more globally conscious, competent individuals who develop a greater interest in learning about the world.”

East Troy is one of 60 school districts in the state participating in the program out of more than 424 districts total. This puts the district on the map when it comes to fostering global consciousness among teenagers.

“Two primary goals of the district are to ensure individualized learning through engagement and provide programming that recognizes talents of each student,” said Geisert. “I believe this supports those goals by preparing future generations to live successfully in the era of globalization. This opportunity for students will allow them to distinguish themselves from their peers and will hopefully attract families that are considering moving to the area or open-enrolling.”

As of this moment, twenty-seven (27) students are working toward the completion of this certificate. To help encourage more students to get involved in the program, the coordinators

plan to address next year's incoming freshmen so they are aware of the opportunity before they even begin selecting their courses.

So far, the other teachers and staff members at ETHS have been thrilled with what the program has produced.

"I love the idea," said one teacher. "All students should have the knowledge and understanding of people, places and cultures around the world."

"I am excited to see students taking a global perspective in high school!" said another. "Growing up in such a small town means that most of our students don't have the opportunity to experience other cultures until they begin college. As a history teacher, I am constantly trying to help students realize how interconnected this vast world really is. It is difficult for high school students to take the perspective of a person or country whose culture is different from their own."

With so many higher education institutes and companies placing a larger emphasis than ever before on global consciousness, the GEAC program at East Troy is helping students to prepare for what lies ahead of them.

For more information about the GEAC, contact coordinators Kelly Geisert (geikel@easttroy.k12.wi.us) or DelRae Felten ([feldel@easttroy.k12.wi.us](mailto:fedel@easttroy.k12.wi.us)).

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