

English Language Institute Executive Summary 1

English Language Institute Project Executive Summary

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Project Executive Item 1: Project Summary and Benefits

Throughout the semester, the “Green Giants” worked with the English Language Institute at Memorial Hall. Each individual was set up with an international conversation partner in order to enhance their English. When convenient, we met with our conversation partners to spend time with them and help them get acclimated to Mississippi State University. Our overall goal for our conversation partners was to enhance their English, help them meet more people, and share cultural values. At the same time, we were planning an international social called “Operation: Let’s Get Social” where we brought in the Russian Club, the International Student Advisory Board, Transportation Services, and the Student Counseling Center. By bringing these organizations in, we showed international students different campus organizations that many of them did not know about. This event benefited both international students and the English Language Institute because we helped expose them to different services around campus, but at the same time they were able to interact with other students, including other international students and students who are not involved with ELI. With about 20 to 30 attendees, “Operation: Let’s Get Social” was an exciting, interactive event for everyone who showed up.

Project Executive Item 2: Leadership Lessons Learned

Overall, our group experienced many ups and downs while planning this event, but in the end we persevered and hosted the event. Some of our greatest challenges we faced included

securing a venue, contacting clubs/organizations, and getting in touch with international students. When it came to the venue, event services did not properly set us up using OrgSync and filling out an event form. It wasn't until soon before the event when we finally filled out our form. We also had many issues contacting organizations to come to our event. We emailed all possible organizations and campus services that could benefit international students, but very few responded to our emails, let alone showed up. Also, getting students from the English Language Institute to attend was a slight challenge. Many were too busy to come, which we understood. Even so, a good amount of students from ELI did attend our social. We overcame these struggles together as a team and realized that we could still hold our event even with few organizations present. At the social, we filled the time by playing games, serving food, and talking to the international students who were present.

When we began our planning, our group was overwhelmed by the immense project. By the end, our team came together and learned how to host an event, which was one of our biggest takeaways. This event required us to communicate with organizations, secure venues, order food, and create an itinerary by playing games, but at the same time gave us all responsibilities which everyone on the team fulfilled. Through planning, we learned all aspects in planning an event this size. This will help us in the future during our time at Mississippi State and in the workforce. Through planning, we also learned more about working as a team, such as delegating tasks. This project was the first step in developing our group-work skills, which helped prepare us for the future when working with our peers.