

Addressing the Goals

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4a project Year 2

Overall Goal 2. In what ways have we further explored our identity as a college? In what ways have we enriched the dialogue on vocation and the implications for learning?

The goal was to internationalize the curriculum.

We took four students to Nicaragua over Spring Break in 2004 and I'm taking 10 this year. In 2004, more than 60 people attended the students' final presentation. One of the students who participated two years ago decided to study abroad in Spain this past semester in part because of her experience in 2004. The experience helped give the confidence to lead a UMAIE course abroad which I did in January of 2005 and will do again in January of 2007.

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PS: The web site says this under goals

Goals Statement: "In what ways have we further explored our identity as a college? In what ways have we enriched the dialogue on vocation and the implications for learning?"

We believe that this proposed project helps SD ELCA members including the campus community see Augustana College in at least two new ways. First, not only are we identified as the place for parents to send their students for a college education, but we are also a place where local ELCA members can return to prepare for international mission trips. We are one of the places in the SD synod where the church does its thinking and teaching about the outside world. In other words, this course is one concrete service we provide as a benefit to the churches that own us. This offering helps us demonstrate what it means to say we are a college of the ELCA. Second, no longer will our traveling students view Augustana as an autonomous, small, private, Lutheran liberal arts college at the edge of the plains. Instead, they will see and experience that we are part of a global Lutheran church. It is far bigger than they have imagined. When one lives on the northern plains, it is easy for us to forget that Lutherans are part of an international institution that is involved in emergency relief, economic development, and the promotion of justice. Our visits to Lutheran World Relief coffee farmers as well as meetings with leaders and members of ILFE will make this apparent.

Finally, the issues raised in this course are naturally connected to ideas of vocation and how we should live. The teaching and learning done in this class involves not only facts and figures, but also raises questions about calling and our responsibilities to others with whom we share the planet. (Only the Lord knows why the two professors in this class talk frequently about their callings to return to Nicaragua.)