



the Lantern

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A newsletter of the Presentation Lantern Center
Sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, IA

Seeking volunteers! ★

Here at the Presentation Lantern Center, we work hard to live our mission of hospitality and create an environment that invigorates each volunteer to come work with a student each week. We love sharing language and life experiences around the teatime table, and the hard work, humor, commitment and gratitude of our students leads many volunteers to say, “We feel like we get as much out of tutoring as we give.”

Currently, we have students looking to be matched with a tutor in the morning and evening (10AM-12PM, and 5PM-7PM)—the most popular hours for tutoring due to students’ lives and work schedules! If you would like to build a connection that will help an adult immigrant navigate life in Dubuque through English skills or citizenship, please contact our education director, Sue Ellis, at the Center, (563) 557-7134 or via Info@TheLanternCenter.org. You can also apply directly at www.TheLanternCenter.org/ We provide materials, and tutors do not need to have experience teaching—they just need to be willing to help and be able to commit to meeting regularly with a student, usually once a week for a two-hour session. We also need tutors willing to sub as needed and available.

Furthermore, we know that many of our lives have changed significantly in the last several years, especially with the tumult of the pandemic. If, for any reason, we missed a connection with you in the past and you would like to begin or resume tutoring, please contact us, or stop in the Center during our open hours. We would love to welcome you back!



Another proud citizen

We are so proud of our most recent successful citizenship student, Ahlam Laaroussi! Ahlam and her dedicated tutor Shawna Domeyer have been studying together for months, and Ahlam was more than prepared when it finally came to answer her interview questions. As a citizen, Ahlam can vote, have access to social services and even run for office if she chooses to do so. Citizens also enjoy better long-term economic outcomes, which is why campaigns like Cities for Citizenship encourage eligible immigrants to complete the citizenship process in the interest of community as well as individual development.



Mark your calendars

All volunteers and students are invited to our **Volunteer Appreciation Picnic**, to be held at **Eagle Point Park’s Riverfront Pavilion on Thursday, June 29 at 5 p.m.**

We will email invitations and post reminders on thelanterncenter.org and facebook.com/LanternDBQ closer to the date. Please RSVP to the Lantern Center to info@thelanterncenter.org or by calling 563-557-7134 to allow us to plan for food, and let us know if you have dietary restrictions (allergies, vegetarian, etc.).

The volunteer appreciation picnic is a relaxing opportunity to celebrate the dedicated volunteers who are the heart and the soul of the Lantern Center and who make it all possible!

This year’s **Lighting the Lantern** fundraiser will be held at **Stone Cliff Winery** in the early evening of **Thursday, Sept. 28.**

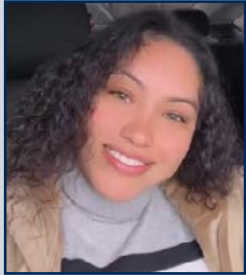
This year, we’ll be featuring a panel of Lantern Center students, along with food and the opportunity to celebrate our students’ success and the Lantern Center’s vibrant culture of hospitality.



Meet this semester's interns

This semester, we are lucky to have two amazing interns from Loras College! Gaby Arriaga is a Loras College senior majoring in Spanish and psychology, and Pablo Rodriguez is a Loras College senior majoring in social work and psychology and minoring in Spanish.

Gaby and Pablo bring so much heart, skill and dedication to their work here at the Lantern Center. We asked them to tell us a little about their experience here.



"I decided to intern at the Lantern Center because I really like what they had to offer to a community that is new to the U.S. As a first-gen student, it's amazing to see others who want to help those who have migrated to the US, and it would've been

amazing for my parents to have such a supportive group of people to help them learn the language.

I've enjoyed interning at PLC, as I feel that it's brought so much more experience in communication and getting to know other people outside of my own culture. Being able to hear what their future dreams are is also a great experience." -Gaby



"I have worked with immigrants in the past, and starting this new internship at the Presentation Lantern Center really helped me get to know more cultures around the world. Before coming to the Lantern Center, I really only had experience

working with immigrants specifically from Latin America, so having the blessing to get to know more people from places around the world is so amazing.

I really like the community that is built at the Lantern Center and how welcoming they are, not only to immigrants, but also students who are interested in interning there. I am truly blessed to be able to grow with other people at this phenomenal organization." - Pablo

Continuing financial literacy education for immigrants

On Saturday, Jan. 21, we continued our effort to provide financial literacy information to Dubuque-area immigrants by partnering with organizations and people doing amazing work in financial literacy education across Iowa. In an afternoon session, we hosted Monica Reyes, a certified tax professional who co-founded DREAM Iowa, a statewide advocacy organization that helps immigrant lowans through scholarships, financial education and an annual youth summit. Monica came to Iowa as a young person and put herself through college while working and saving to buy a home for her family. She has found a passion for helping immigrant lowans achieve dreams of home ownership and financial stability.

The session focused on non-traditional paths to home ownership, helping immigrants with their taxes and how to get an ITIN. An ITIN is an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number used by people in the U.S. who do not have a Social Security Number. People with an ITIN can apply for a mortgage, though not everyone knows this information.

This session included bilingual staff from realty group Inmobiliaria Inc., as well as Green State Credit Union, represented by their employees Melissa, Michael and Fernando. Other representatives



included Araceli Acahua of Western Dubuque School District and Gisella Aitken-Shadle, Chief of Equity and Human Right of the City of Dubuque.

Several dozen people attended this bilingual Spanish and English presentation. Earlier this winter and in the future, the Lantern Center is hosting and sponsoring additional financial literacy presentations targeting speakers of other languages. Information on home ownership, budgeting, tax filing and financial education can help people turn their hard work into economic stability and resources to help the next generation of lowans. DREAM Iowa's vision is for Iowa, our shared home state that we are proud of, to be a place where immigrants and refugees of all backgrounds and statuses have the opportunities to prosper, that every human deserves —we are proud to be part of that work here in Dubuque!



SCHMID INNOVATION CENTER
900 Jackson Street
Suite LL5-1
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

The Presentation Lantern Center is a drop-in center offering hospitality, educational opportunities and advocacy to adult immigrants, especially women, who are striving to better their lives. Founded by the Sisters of the Presentation, the Center is generously sustained through donations from our founders and individual donors like you. Thank you and God bless you.

HOURS
Monday, Wednesday, Friday:
10 am-3 pm

Tuesday and Thursdays:
1-7 pm

Contact us at
563-557-7134
info@thelanterncenter.org

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