INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL SPANISH

Applying legal Spanish to authentic community issues

PROJECT PURPOSE AND RESULTS

The City of Whitewater and two other service agencies in Walworth and Rock counties sought to improve communications and relations with the Latinx community. Toward that end, a World Languages professor and 14 students worked with these agencies to collect, update, translate and disseminate informational resources related to legal matters to the Latinx community. A group of three students worked with a Bilingual Advocate at New Beginnings, a domestic abuse agency, to increase the organization’s presence on social media. Students created both a Facebook page and a Twitter account in Spanish for the organization and shared informative and inspirational material via these channels. Another group worked to update a list of legal resources to post on the Immigrant Outreach page of the YWCA of Rock County. And two other groups worked with the City Manager to translate and contextualize to Whitewater guidance on what to expect and how to interact with police during a traffic stop, as well as general information about local regulations and what to do in an emergency. This information will be posted to the City website.

Course Offering Information

Introduction to Legal Spanish and the Hispanic Community is a yearly offering of the World Languages Program. It satisfies elective requirements for both majors and minors. While the partnerships may change with each offering, students will continue to do projects which take them out into the community.