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Washington State Coalition for International Education  
c/o Michele Anciaux Aoki  
State Innovations Project Director  
8044 28<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

Dear Washington State Coalition for International Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to share international cultures with my students from Choice Alternative High School in Shelton. I chose to use my Teacher of the Year Scholarship on my students, because I have been fortunate to travel outside the country but they have rarely left Shelton. Since most of my students come from low-income families and from a poverty of experience, I knew that their eyes would be opened simply by strategically visiting Seattle with an emphasis on different cultures.

I designed a scavenger hunt activity for the students to do in two-person teams. I did not simply let them loose in the city, but rather guided them through a variety of experiences and encouraged them to record their own observations in categories of religion, language, food, art, architecture, etc.

The students I selected came from my high level English Class, which has the most capable students in the school, mostly juniors and seniors. It happened that the group consisted only of girls, which actually worked out really well. They truly were excited—eager to learn and to try new things! As a veteran teacher of alternative students, I cannot always predict such a successful outcome; this was a great group of kids who valued the experience and will be talking about it for years. I can hear it now, "Remember when we went to that Asian market and drank that green tea with the seeds in it?"

Your scholarship made a direct impact on twelve young women from a small rural town. Their excitement will radiate throughout our school and their cultural understanding, though limited at first, will grow. I suspect we will not be able to measure the ripple effect this trip will have, yet I am confident that the impact will be positive and long-lasting.

Thank you so much for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan C. Barnard".

Susan C. Barnard