

## Application Details

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### Manage Application: ALG Textbook Transformation Grants

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**Award Cycle:** Round 6

**Internal Submission Deadline:** Monday, August 1, 2016

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**Application Title:** 234

**Application ID:** #001139

**Submitter First Name:** Mariana

**Submitter Last Name:** Stone

**Submitter Title:** Language Lab Director

**Submitter Email Address:** mariana.stone@ung.edu

**Submitter Phone Number:** 706-864-1978

**Submitter Campus Role:** Proposal Investigator (Primary or additional)

**Applicant First Name:** Mariana

**Applicant Last Name:** Stone

**Co-Applicant Name(s):** Valerie Hastings, Elizabeth Combier, Kristi Hislope, Rosaria Meek, Alvaro Torres-Calderon

**Applicant Email Address:** mariana.stone@ung.edu

**Applicant Phone Number:** 706-864-1978

**Primary Appointment Title:** Language Lab Director

**Institution Name(s):** University of North Georgia

**Submission Date:** Monday, August 1, 2016

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**Team Members (Name, Title, Department, Institutions if different, and email address for each):**

Mariana Stone, Director of Language Labs, Spanish department, mariana.stone@ung.edu

Dr. Valerie Hastings, Assistant Professor of French, Modern and Classical Language department, vthastings@ung.edu

Dr. Elizabeth Combier, Full Professor of Spanish, Spanish Department, elizabeth.combier@ung.edu

Dr. Kristi Hislope, Full Professor of Spanish, Spanish Department,  
kristi.hislope@ung.edu

**Sponsor, (Name, Title, Department, Institution):**

Dr. Elizabeth Combier, Department Head, Spanish Department

**Proposal Title:** 234

**Course Names, Course Numbers and Semesters Offered:**

Elementary Spanish I, 1001 (offered in the Summer, Fall, and Spring every year.)

**Final Semester of Instruction:** Fall 2017

**Average Number of Students per Course Section:** 21

**Number of Course Sections Affected by Implementation in Academic Year:** 146

**Total Number of Students Affected by Implementation in Academic Year:** 3066

**List the original course materials for students (including title, whether optional or required, & cost for each item):** Required: Vistas 5th edition  
-Required: Textbook with Companion site (Supersite + Websam) Total Cost \$255

**Proposal Category:** No-or-Low-Cost to Students Learning Materials

**Requested Amount of Funding:** \$30,000

**Original per Student Cost:** \$255

**Post-Proposal Projected Student Cost:** \$30

**Projected Per Student Savings:** \$255

**Projected Total Annual Student Savings:** \$D781,830

**Creation and Hosting Platforms Used ("n/a" if none):**

n/a

### **Project Goals:**

- 1.To lower overall costs for degree completion for students by lowering textbook costs.
- 2.Utilize authentic L2 (Second Language) materials relevant to the culture and language they are studying that align with the linguistic goals and competencies of a lower division Spanish 1001 student.
- 3.Provide an open source free textbook that will put an emphasis on interactive ways of learning and the use of technology (an open source free textbook online with active links to online videos and articles).
- 4.Allow students to have access to course materials that are very current and can easily be updated.
- 5.Compare and contrast the effect on learning outcomes between the students using a traditional textbook and those using the open source free online textbook . We will align this free resource to the current used textbook giving the option to students and faculty to continue using Vistas if they so chose or go with the free option and still be on track to continue with SPAN 1002 with a different textbook.
- 6.Assess student preferences with a survey on the group trialed with the new online learning resource.
- 7.Encourage a switch to new online learning resources for other faculty working with other languages as well.

### **Statement of Transformation:**

UNG serves a large and widespread population of low-income students. The rising cost of tuition and textbooks creates financial barriers that negatively affect degree completion. Making no-cost-to students learning materials available allows college to become more affordable and accessible to our population therefore increasing retention and graduation rates.

The textbook currently required is rather expensive and some students often decide not to purchase or wait too long to acquire the material required or recommended at the cost of their success in the class. Students often fall behind by postponing the purchase of their textbook, lose their confidence and sometimes even drop of the course or withdraw from college completely.

Also, most textbook material becomes dated rather quickly and even if they are updated with

each new edition justifying an increase in price, the new editions are never able to embrace all the cultural and linguistic changes in real time. The new no-cost online learning material will allow to incorporate authentic online resources from the culture studied and will permit instant updates and the malleability necessary when it comes to teaching languages and culture, especially in a lower division Spanish course.

Access to the most current information available will allow the students to make connections between what is happening in the Spanish speaking world currently and the material studied, keeping them informed and interested. Also, an improved and easier access to the required and recommended materials for the course will allow the students to feel more confident and improve their overall performance.

### **Transformation Action Plan:**

Mariana Stone: 1001 courses and syllabus redesign with a new sequence and a redefinition of the materials to be mastered after each level.

Mariana Stone: Two student surveys (an experience survey to get feedback on the perceived efficiency and ease of use of the new resource and a final assessment survey to measure the impact on learning with the new resource compared to the old one).

Mariana Stone, Dr. Valerie Hastings, Dr. Elizabeth Combier and Dr. Hislope: Design interactive activities (to practice reading, writing, listening and speaking in class) and create quality videos and other audio materials to be embedded into the new online resource. All materials will be available on a freely accessible textbook (with active links to videos and audio material). The text will be available for downloading in Adobe Acrobat Format and will be freely accessible under the Creative Commons Attribution- NonCommercial- ShareAlike licence. A new web site will be created with a publishing platform available online (<https://wix.com>), to supplement and host the pdf version of the new textbook.

**Quantitative & Qualitative Measures:** Compare ABC rates and DFW rates for SPAN 1001 the new online resource to those using a commercial textbook. Assess students performance using a uniform final exam for 1001 those using a commercial textbook. Assess speaking, writing, listening and reading skills using the ACTFL proficiency guidelines and compare to those using a commercial textbook. Measure the impact on student experience with an online Survey on D2L for students who are using the new online resource. Suggestions for improvements will be solicited. Survey of the faculty to get their feedback on the new online resource.

### **Timeline:**

Fall 2016: Material Development and curricular alignment, each project member will develop a chapter as well as be responsible for all supplementary materials that accompany the chapter.

Spring 2017: Partial implementation in 4 1001 classes to compare the use of the new online resource with the group using a commercial textbook.

Fall 2017: Make some adjustments and/or changes based on the first surveys and exam results. The results will be shared with the rest of the faculty.

December 2017: Final experience survey and final assessment survey (Final exams).

January 2018: Full implementation: All sections of Spanish 1001 will have a free access textbook.

March 2018: Survey of the faculty to get their feedback on the new online resource.

April 2018: Experience survey and Assessment survey. Final report submitted including qualitative and quantitative outcomes.

**Budget:**

	<b><i>Requested Funds</i></b>
<i>Personnel</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>
Mariana Stone	\$5,000.00
Dr. Valerie Hastings	\$5,000.00
Dr. Elizabeth Combier	\$5,000.00
Dr. Kristi Hislope	\$5,000.00
Dr. Rosaria Meek	\$5,000.00
Dr. Alvaro Torres-Calderon	\$5,000.00
<i>Contractual</i>	<i>\$800.00</i>
Travel expenses for grant recipients	\$800.00

**Sustainability Plan:**

The courses for SPAN 1001 will be offered in the spring, summer and fall of each year using the free online resource on all UNG campuses.

The faculty will review all materials available with the free online resource annually and updates and/or changes will be made as appropriate.





July 29, 2016

Department of Spanish

Dear Members of the Review Board:

As Head and Associate Head of the Department of Spanish at the University of North Georgia, we write to enthusiastically support our department's application for the Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grant led by Ms. Mariana Stone. Other working members of the grant group are Drs. Elizabeth Combier, Valerie Hastings, Kristi Hislope, Rosaria Meek, and Alvaro Torres-Calderón. This group is a collaboration of the Department of Spanish and the Department of Modern & Classical Languages. All are eager to develop online materials for a textbook that will address the language-learning needs of our students and help them to become more proficient in Spanish in a cost-effective manner. We are also motivated by the idea of developing our own curriculum instead of following the traditional sequencing of concepts by major textbook publishers.

Mariana Stone is our Lab Director for all languages and campuses of UNG. She develops all activities for one of our four-credit hours for Spanish 1001 as well as working closely with our other ten languages to assist them in developing activities for their classes too. She teaches two Spanish classes every semester, so she knows our current curriculum well. Mariana earned a M.A. in Spanish Applied Linguistics with a specialization in Second Language Acquisition and is finishing coursework for her Ed.D. in Instructional Technology at Georgia State University. Her expertise in technology and in language acquisition are extremely beneficial in this endeavor and to being the leader of our group. Under her vision and leadership, along with the experience of Dr. Hastings in French, we hope to develop a fully online textbook and ancillary materials for our SPAN 1001 course.

Dr. Valerie Hastings is an Assistant Professor of French at our university. Last year she won this grant to develop online resources for our French 1001 & 1002 courses. She will be a valuable member of our group with her knowledge of developing the online resources. From her work this past year she has a plethora of information on open-sourced pictures and videos so that we do not violate any copyright laws.

The other members of the group have various backgrounds. Dr. Elizabeth Combier, Professor of Spanish and Department Head of Spanish, has a specialty in Golden Age literature and theater and has conducted research in cultural issues of language learning. Dr. Kristi Hislope, Professor of Spanish and Associate Department Head of Spanish, is a second language acquisition specialist and researches different dialects of Spanish. Dr. Rosaria Meek, Assistant Professor of Spanish, is a specialist in Argentinean and Italian literature, was a Governor Teaching Fellow and researches new teaching approaches, especially in Spanish for the Professions. Finally, Dr. Alvaro Torres-Calderón, Associate Professor of Spanish, is a Colonial, XIX and XX Century Literature specialist. His interests are study abroad and internship programs for students.

The prospect of combining our many years of language-teaching experience into this innovative project is exciting and appealing to us. Our university is well-known in the state for having exemplary language programs. We are one of the nation's six senior military colleges which has allowed us to work with the military to teach our cadets and civilian students critical and strategic languages and Spanish, important to the U.S. as well as abroad. In fifteen years we have progressed from offering three languages to now offering eleven languages in Fall 2016. In academic year 2015-2016 we offered 143 sections of SPAN 1001 with an enrollment of approximately 3,000 students who each spent an estimated \$200 for their textbook and online workbook codes. This project will create a \$600,000 savings and has the potential to affect many students. After we are successful with this project we will undertake the same approach for an online textbook in our SPAN 1002 course.

Our Dean, Dr. Chris Jespersen, is fully supportive of this initiative and of our efforts and the time to achieve our goals. With a membership including the Department Head, the Associate Department Head, the Language Lab Director, a previous grant winner for a similar project in French, and two more enthusiastic faculty members, we are devoted to this project and to our students.

Should you require more information on this proposal or wish to speak to any members listed above or to the dean, please feel free to contact us. We thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Combier, Ph.D.  
Department Head of Spanish  
Professor of Spanish

Kristi Hislope, Ph.D.  
Associate Department Head of Spanish  
Professor of Spanish

Cumming    Dahlonega    Gainesville    Oconee

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