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Linfield College: Study Abroad in France

Virginia Anderson

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Linfield College: Study Abroad in France
Virginia (Zander) Anderson
Class of 1997

I graduated from Linfield with a French major plus Spanish and European Studies double minors. I still use both French and Spanish languages in my everyday life at work and at home. In my heart, I am a translator, and I instill a love of language and culture in my family, my staff, and my customers. My passion was inspired and strengthened during the year I spent a year in Avignon (Institute for American Universities), as well as a summer in Costa Rica (Forester Instituto Internacional). The singular pivot point that predicted my future career took place during my study abroad experience. An IAU alumna -- who by the time I met her was Chief of Staff to the American Ambassador in Paris -- returned to Avignon to share how her life had unfolded after her year-abroad experience a decade before. Her explanation opened my eyes to completely new avenues for applying my languages to a career, specifically translation, interpreting, and diplomacy. Thus I found my vision.

Today, I own Oregon Translation - a green-certified translation company in Portland. My team and I provide document translations, multilingual audiovisual materials, and localized websites for world governments, multinational corporations, and global marketing campaigns. We field requests for more than 100 languages, with French, Spanish, and German at the top of the list. Our recent projects include a French and Spanish website for Mercy Corps (www.micromentor.org); marketing videos in French, Italian, and German for the new hybrid electric car by Fisker Automotive; and an e-learning package for Intel's operations in Francophone Africa.

For students: The language services industry is growing and evolving rapidly. It is one field that continued to grow while the rest of the economy slowed. Volumes of work are increasing as global trade and web-based communications explode. Each year reveals nascent opportunities for sub-specializations and emerging careers as language technologists. First, however, you must have a deep understanding for the language and cultures with which you will interact. The single best way to obtain this appreciation is to profoundly immerse yourself in a study abroad experience.

Sincerely,
Virginia Anderson
Translation Director
Translator: French, Spanish, English

Oregon Translation, LLC
Visit: 921 SW Washington St., Suite 264 | Portland, OR 97205
Write: virginia@oregontranslation.com
Phone: 503.914.1119
Toll-free: +1.855.OR.Trans
Fax: 503.575-9168
Web: <http://www.oregontranslation.com>

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