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Global Studies Initiative Faculty Report: Interdisciplinary Collaborations

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2. Parkland College faculty have developed six general learning outcomes to help students acquire essential skills, knowledge, and values that will serve them in their future careers. The Global Awareness and Ethical Reasoning outcome states that *students will demonstrate an understanding of global issues, gender and sexual orientation, multicultural perspectives, and/or the role of ethical core values in making personal, social, academic, and professional decisions*. Please reflect on how the assignment or materials you described in the previous question contributes to this learning outcome or could be modified to better fit this outcome.

This assignment compares and contrasts how women and relationships could be depicted differently globally. Having a beautiful girl from a noble family seems to the dream of a poor, lowly Chinese man. Women are expected to weave, cook, and raise children, while men do hard labor work in the field. Romantic love could be ideal, but the role of parents can never be underestimated. Parents have the power to separate a couple, and make them meet just once a year. Though the couple only meets once a year, they are still faithful to each other and love each other. Chinese also believe in the sacred power of “heaven,” believe it has the supernatural ability to change or determine anyone’s fate.

3. How do you think learning about global issues and other areas of the world benefits your students in your field of study or discipline?

It exposes the students to a different way to see relationships, duty, and parental power.

4. Do you believe your course could benefit from more interdisciplinary collaborations on global issues participating, for instance, in some of the collaborative teaching initiatives presented by your group in your joint report? Explain your answer.

Yes, I believe so. My group members would like to see the impact of fairy tales, meaning how fairy tales could change a person or reflect the key values of a culture.

Thank you very much for participating in the Global Studies Initiative and completing this report!

【英文】

The legend has been handed down for nearly 2 millennia. The story has been recorded as far back as the Jin Dynasty (256-420 AD). Poets composed hundreds of verses on the love story and many types of Chinese opera tell the story.

The Chinese people believe that the star Vega (织女星), east of the Milky Way, is Zhi Nu and, at the constellation of Aquila (天鹰座), on the western side of the Milky Way, Niu Lang waits for his wife.

Zhi Nu was said to be the youngest of seven daughters of the Queen of Heaven. With her sisters, she worked hard to weave beautiful clouds in the sky, while Niu Lang was a poor orphan cowherd, driven out of his home by his elder brother and his cruel wife.

Niu Lang lamented over his lonely and poor life with an old cow, his only friend and companion. The magical cow kindly told him of a way to find a beautiful and nice woman as his life companion.

Under the direction of the cow, Niu Lang went to the riverside on an evening, where the seven fairies slipped out of their heavenly palace to bathe.

He took one of the beautiful silk dresses the fairies had left on the bank. When the fairies left the water, the youngest couldn't find her clothes and had to see her sisters fly back to heaven without her.

Then Niu Lang came out with the dress and asked the youngest fairy, Zhi Nu, to stay with him.

Several years passed on Earth, which were only a few days in heaven. Niu Lang and Zhi Nu lived happily together and had two children before the Queen of Heaven discovered Zhi Nu's absence.

She was so annoyed she had Zhi Nu brought back to heaven. Seeing his beloved wife flying in the sky, Niu Lang was terrified. He caught sight of the cowhide hanging on a wall. The magical cow had told him before dying of old age: "Keep the cowhide (牛皮) for emergency use."

Putting the cowhide on, he went after his wife with his two children.

With the help of the cowhide, Niu Lang was able to follow Zhi Nu into heaven. He was about to reach his wife when the Queen showed up and pulled off her hairpin to draw a line between the two. The line became the Silver River in heaven, or the Milky Way.

Zhi Nu went back to the heavenly workshop, going on weaving the clouds. But she was so sad, and missed her husband across the Silver River so much that the clouds she weaved seemed sad. Finally, the Queen showed a little mercy, allowing the couple to meet once every year on the Silver River.