

COIL Partnering Orientation

Stage 1: Profiling

Task: *Who* are you, *Where* are you based and *Why* are you here?

1. Complete the Profile block below with the information requested (6 questions + photo/picture/image). Most social networking sites, e.g. Facebook or LinkedIn, ask users to upload a photograph of themselves so that they can be recognized by other users. Nonetheless, sometimes users choose to upload images that represent something about themselves. As part of this profile, we would also ask you to add an image that represents something about you that you might want to communicate to a potential partner. Please do NOT use a headshot. You may upload more than one picture.

N.B. You can add photos and images by clicking on 'Insert' on the menu bar above and then clicking on the first tab 'Image'.

2. Expand the Profile by adding 6-8 profile items with additional information you think would be important for a potential partner to know about you as a professional, as a person, and about your institutional setting.

Image(s)

Profile	Your Responses
Full Name	<i>Natalia de Cuba</i>
Email address	<i>natalia.decuba@ncc.edu</i>
Language(s)	<i>English,/Spanish (fluent bilingual); conversational Italian; some French; rudimentary Czech</i>
Institution where you are based	<i>Nassau Community College</i>
What makes your institution an especially interesting or suitable partner for online international collaborations?	<i>We have a diverse student population, next door to a major urban center. Our course offerings are academic, encouraging transfer to 4-year institutions so can offer a window into preparing international students for a U.S. academic setting. We are actively engaged in building relationships with other institutions around the globe.</i>
Why are you interested in teaching and/or supporting others teaching a COIL course?	<i>Globalization is a reality and borders are being redefined by the digital revolution. I</i>

	<i>would like my students to feel comfortable riding that wave. And personally I like reachnig across borders to learn about other people's lives, cultures, and economies.</i>
My teaching setting	<i>Language Immersion at Nassau Community College is a 20-hour-a-week 15-week immersion program in ESOL for students who aspire to enter the mainstream campus but lack academic English. Our students come from all over the world; in my current class I of 17 I have 14 countries represented. Our methodology is holistic; we don't teach reading, writing, listening and speaking as discrete skills, but woven together in varied platforms with an emphasis on authentic materials. This is my eighth year as a full-time instructor in the program (and the program's eighth year of existence).</i>
My Teaching Experience	<i>I have taught EFL in Italy, Prague and Puerto Rico in public and private schools, from kindergarten to university faculty. In the U.S. I have taught high school ESL as well as in the LINCC program. My MA TESOL is from Stony Brook.</i>
Professional Interests	<i>I am very interested in methodology and as such have presented at many ESOL conferences on the regional and international level. I have also facilitated professional development workshops for teachers and administrators at the Literacy Assistance Center in NYC and been a invited speaker on issues of high school to college transitions.</i>
My Other Life	<i>In addition to teaching, I have been a</i>

journalist for many years and earned an MS from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. These days I write mostly about food for Edible Long Island and Edible East End on a freelance basis. I published a food dictionary -- "Eat Your Way Through Puerto Rico" -- which I am now in the process of republishing. I would very much like to incorporate journalism into my teaching going forward.

I am also literate in international football (soccer).

I finally figured out how to insert an image. I am in the center in the blue top and black skirt. This is on the occasion of a presentation by a community activist and immigration rights activist that I organized at the college for Hispanic Heritage Month this semester. The speaker also happens to have been my student when I taught high school ten years ago, so it has great meaning for me!

