

This is a transcript for the podcast featuring Melissa Maley, coordinator of the GTCC Global Studies Program and GTCC religion instructor.

This is a sort of honors program for students specializing in global competencies and aspects of the global workforce.

Students take at least 5 courses designated as having a “global focus”, must make an A or B in those classes, must participate in 8 hours of international events across campus, and complete a 30 study abroad or a domestic international experience.

GTCC students can volunteer to help with a GTCC ESOL class, usually a beginning ESOL class, or they can work with the Center for New North Carolinians (UNCG), working in afterschool programs. Both experiences focus on working with students, either at GTCC or in the school system.

Once all of this completed they do a capstone presentation prior to graduation and if that is successfully completed then it is noted on their diploma that the student is a Global Scholar of Distinction.

Ms. Maley became involved in the program through Bill Raines (Spanish instructor) and the Internationalizing the Curriculum Committee, a group of faculty interested in increasing involvement by faculty in international studies and issues. This group eventually became the Global Education and Learning Committee. Ms. Maley stayed on with this group, and when GTCC became involved in a pilot program for global studies in community colleges through World View she eventually became committee chair and the point person at GTCC for this program. Ms. Maley very committed to this set of issues; that why she has stayed involved. Program at time of this interview had 25 students after a semester and a half of existence.

This program a partnership with World View at UNC-CH. World View grew out of international institutes studying other countries at UNC-CH. World View was initially a program for providing information from the institutes to k-12 institutions. Another aspect of this has been provision of an opportunity to go overseas on a trip sponsored by World View. World View also provides a small stipend to instructors to globalize their courses. This program has been firmly established since Dr. Parker’s arrival.

Ms. Maley feels global knowledge is important in the current world situation-global economy, global politics, 24 hour information flow, and a constant flow of people from other countries. To Ms. Maley it seems North American doesn’t really have a choice about being involved with the rest of the world, and this skill set can be important for individual careers. All in all knowing the world outside the US is good for the individual. It is important to know what is going on in the world. The possibilities outside the US are pretty endless. Through this program faculty can modify their courses to accommodate this changing world.

Students can contact Ms. Maley for more information about the program at mlmaley@gtcc.edu or globalscholars@gtcc.edu or 334-4822, x50342 or through the website gtcc.edu/nc-global-scholars.

There is really no loss to students for participating in the program; if a student enrolls and then decides later not to finish there is no academic penalty; will not prevent graduation. There is also a Global Scholars Club (membership in the academic program not required to join) and soon there will be opportunities for overseas trips.