

Lost in Translation? Not Anymore. MSU's new ESL class



Abstract

The MSU Adult Education Service Area Professional Learning Community Project includes:

- An ESL curriculum
- An ESL marketing plan to recruit former and new ESL students
- Develop a partnership with MSU Spanish club, school systems and employers

Introduction

Since 2016 the MSU Service area experienced a decrease in ELL/ESL students. Despite efforts to keep students coming in, most students stopped attending due to various factors. Recently, a local employer in one of our counties, began recruiting Spanish speaking people for employment and even provided them with housing. We knew that in addition to these new people to our service area that there was an ELL / ESL population that could benefit from our services, so we decided to develop our PLC project around the following

- Increase ESL enrollment
- Improve MSG attainment for ESL students
- Improve GED attainment for ESL students
- Develop Community Partnerships for ESL

Table 1. Non-English Speakers. – American Community Survey

	Spanish	Asian & Pacific Islander	Other Indo/European	Other Language
2019	1171	216	617	159
2020	1229	267	454	136
2021	1277	237	476	78

References & Acknowledgements

American Community Survey

Product Description & Motivation

According to the American Community Survey (see table 1-lower left hand corner) there were 2,068 people in our service area in 2021 that do not speak English. We determined based on this information that there is a population in our service area that would benefit from our services but we needed to come up with a way to recruit them and then provide instruction in a way that would encourage them to continue after the initial assessment. We decided to approach the project by developing a curriculum, marketing flyers, and develop community partnerships to recruit and retain ESL students. Another motivator was that the MSU Spanish Club approached our Rowan County instructors about collaborating to provide a space and materials for their participants to tutor ESL students. We looked at it as a great opportunity to work with a community partner in providing instruction.

Baseline & Goal

To determine our base line and goals for the current year, we looked at the number of ESL students served in previous years (see chart 1 – upper right hand corner). We knew that in order to set a reasonable MSGs goal, we would need to see almost twice the number of students actually enrolled (12+ hours). Based on this information we set the following goals.

- Recruit: 40 – 80 students
- 12+ hours: 20 – 40
- 40+ hours: 10 – 20
- MSG (TABE or GED): 5 - 10

Results

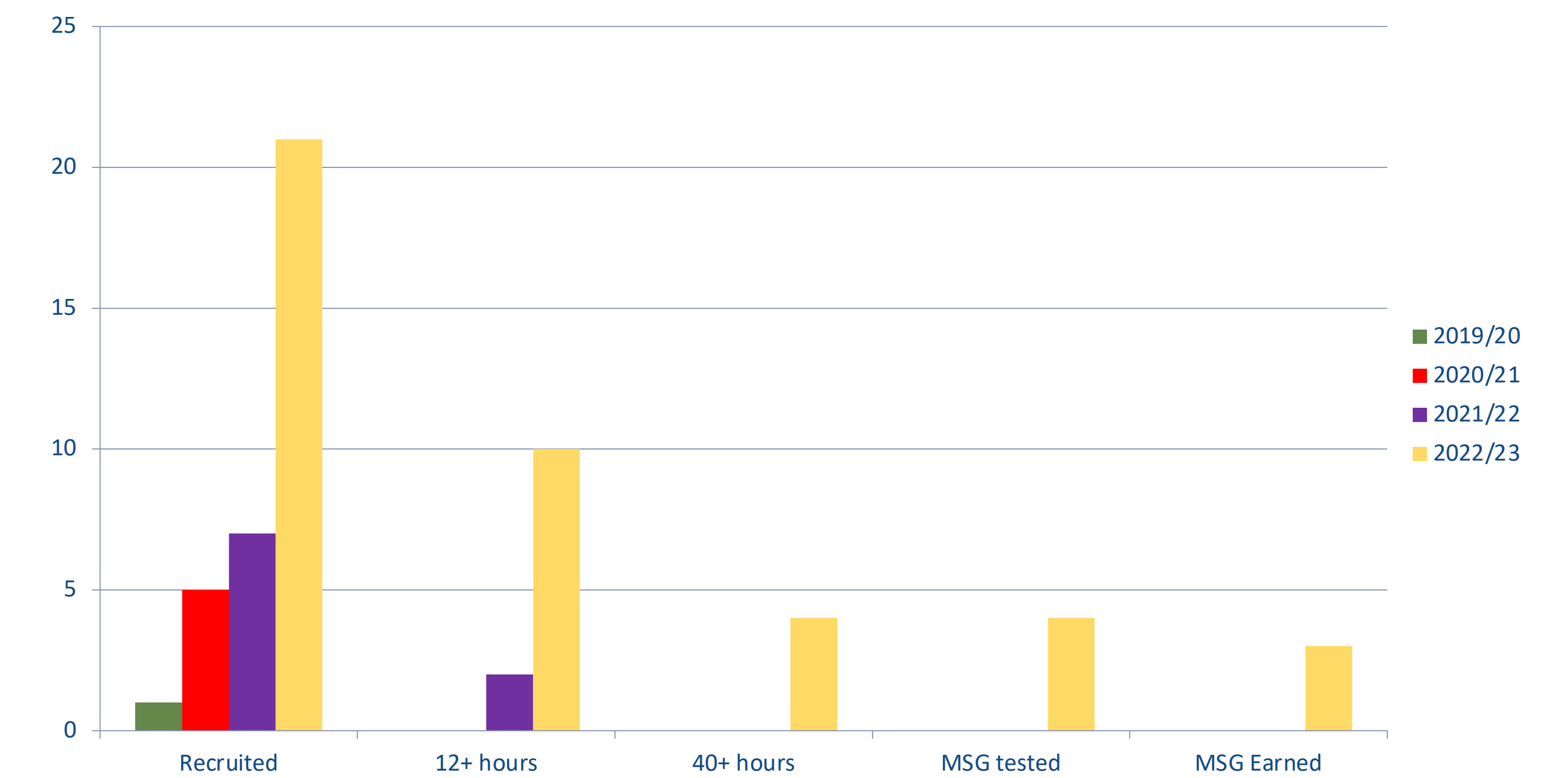
Our results, although varied, does indicate an improvement in recruitment, retention, and level gains. These improvements are the outcome of:

- Developing marketing materials in Spanish (see QR code 1)
- Developing a curriculum based on in-person instruction and the use of Burlington English as distance learning (see Link 2).

Service Area results:

- An increase in students: 15 students in the previous 3 years combined to 21 students this current year.
- An increase in reaching 12 hrs: 2 students in the past 3 years to 10 students this current year.
- An increase in MSG's: 0 MSGs for ESL students in the past 3 years combined: 3 MSG's for the current year.
- We did not reach our set goals but we did see improvements.

Chart 1. ESL Enrollment for MSU Service Area.



Links

Link 1:



<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:91f5bc28-8eeb-4e7f-b9ef-024e10859394>

Link 2:



<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:7c394490-7492-4d9e-b1fa-4473ecc9c787>

Conclusions

Although we did not meet the goals set we did see much improvement and developed a new partnership.

- Our goals were lofty -more reasonable goals such as recruit 20 – 30, students, 10 – 15 reach 12+ hrs, 5 – 10 reach 40+ hrs and 3 – 7 earn a MSG.
- In addition to modifying the goals, we would continue to modify our recruitment strategies in some of our counties with fewer employment opportunities.
- We will continue this project, we will double our efforts in our counties that had little or no ESL participants in this fiscal year.