Japanese/Chinese community-based learning course at Portland State University
Suwako Watanabe
E-mail: suwako@pdx.edu
October 12, 2012
UC Berkeley

PSU’s Mission & Goals
• Access to learning
• A climate of mutual respect
• Openness and Reflection
• Community and Civic Engagement

...promotes a reciprocal relationship between the community and the university...

Learning Goals of Capstone Course
Campus-wide
• Inquiry & critical thinking
• Communication
• The Diversity in Human Experience
• Ethics & Social Responsibility

Students of ANY MAJOR can take Capstone.

My Capstone Course
• “Japanese/Chinese Language Program for Elementary Students”
• On-campus class meetings
• Volunteer in a local language immersion program.
• Understand & promote importance of FL education at early ages and less-commonly-taught languages in communities.

On-Campus Meeting
• Teaching activity demonstration
• Chapter presentation (Language and Children by Curtain and )
• Discussion on issues: Lang. Policy, FL ed
• Learning Styles & Multiple Intelligences
• Diversity
• Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity
• Presentation to promote LCTL/FL ed
Volunteer at Elementary School

- Use language in a real-world setting.
- Observing how a language is learned & taught.
- Exposed to native speakers’ speech
- Functional use

Volunteering

Volunteering

Promotion

Out in the Community

Benefits

- Target Language
- Learner’s perspective vs. teacher’s
- National Standards for FL 5 C’s
- Communication, Culture, Comparison, Connection, Community

Tips

- Contextualize a task – designate audience
- Observe student’s work first-hand – vs. self-report
- Build a safe & amicable learning community
- Life-long learning – Reflective view of themselves, support FL education, explore a bigger goal of their learning.