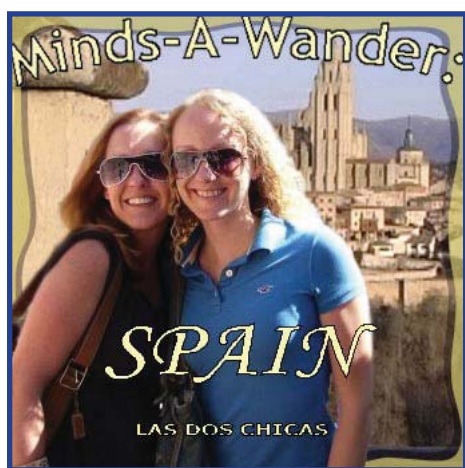


## A Pair of Penn-Delco Teachers Form a Non-profit Organization to Fund Student Travel

Traveling abroad can be one of the most exciting adventures a student experiences. For two Penn-Delco Foreign Language teachers, they decided to take their passion for travel from the streets of Europe to the classrooms of America and make it easier for their students to do the same. Northley Middle School teacher Erica Mier and Sun Valley High School teacher Jill Bednar have produced films intended to share their recent experiences in Spain and Canada in an educational format that is not only mindful of its intended audience, but will also provide financial assistance for students to travel.

Las Dos Chicas, the name of Mrs. Mier's and Mrs. Bednar's corporation, is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that funds students to participate in study abroad programs. Their goal is to use the profits from educational films they produce to create an endowment fund which will help students who desire to study and/or volunteer abroad. Their mission is to promote cultural awareness through education, while demonstrating similarities across all of humanity and inspiring students across the United States to experience the world through travel.



*Jill Bednar and Erica Mier*

“Study abroad had such a profound impact on my life and how I see myself as a citizen of the world,” stated Mrs. Bednar. “My mind was opened to the beauty and value of differences among people. My goal is to get passports in the hands of as many students as I can and to make study abroad travel a reality for them.”

“I love traveling and really wanted to show my students different places I'd been through the education videos that were available; however, I was always so frustrated when we'd receive them,” stated Mrs. Mier. “I remember thinking, if I, who love to travel, am put off by these films, imagine how my 13 year old viewers were feeling.”

“Minds-A-Wander: Spain” is a thirty minute film that takes viewers on a journey across Spain through the heart of Castille, visiting Madrid, Segovia, Salamanca and Valladolid. The two teachers, who also appear in and narrate the film, share insight from their week-long visit overseas. In addition to the film, the DVD also includes bonus features that provide a behind the scenes look at typical aspects of Spanish living. Mrs. Mier and Mrs. Bednar intend to produce additional educational DVDs highlighting other countries as they visit them. They plan to release their second project this spring, which was filmed in Quebec, Canada.