CODOFIL Pursues Worldwide Programs, Rotary Club Told

The Council for Development of French in Louisiana is actively pursuing international programs, the CODOFIL special projects coordinator told the Lafayette Rotary Club Thursday. CODOFIL has been involved in international programs since its inception in 1968, said Tami Merriman, but the agency will be targeting additional international programs in the future.

For example, Merriman said, an association was established in France in 1977 to perpetuate that country’s cultural and historic ties with Louisiana. CODOFIL continues to work with the group.

In addition, 60 to 100 French and Belgian students will visit Louisiana in July. Because of a shortage of host families, Merriman said CODOFIL is looking for Lafayette residents to house the students for about three weeks.

CODOFIL is planning a “crash course” in French, she said. The program, scheduled to be held for three consecutive weekends in September, would be geared for businessmen who travel abroad.

CODOFIL is also involved with French broadcasting, which includes about 100 hours of air time in Louisiana. The monthly bilingual magazine Louisiane is published by CODOFIL and has 10,000 subscribers. Additionally, CODOFIL is active in promoting the teaching of French at all levels within the state.

In 1980-81, there were 175 teachers from France in Louisiana’s primary schools. About 145,000 students receive a minimum of 30 minutes per day in foreign language instruction.

Nine Louisiana universities teach French instruction for secondary schools.