French Bilingual Conference Planned

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North American Meeting Will Kick Off Tomorrow

Leading Educators Set to Attend Confab

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

LAFAYETTE, La. — The North American French Bilingual Conference opens here Tuesday, featuring an evaluation of the six French-English bilingual projects in the United States.

Attending the conference will be leading educators and others interested in the bilingual program from Canada and the United States.

The conference is under the co-sponsorship of the St. Martin Parish and Lafayette Parish Bilingual Projects and the Service De Liaison Des Projets Bilingues Francais-Anglais.

HOST UNIVERSITY

Host university for the international meeting is the University of Southwestern Louisiana with Louis Roth, assistant director of the University College division at USL as coordinator.

The Bilingual Projects and the Service De Liaison are funded by the Federal government under Title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Service De Liaison’s aim is to meet the needs of all the French-English bilingual programs. Robert Paris of Greenville, N.H., is coordinator.

The conference in Louisiana was initiated by the St. Martin Parish Bilingual Project, under the direction of Mrs. Hazel Delahousse. Ruth Bradley heads the Lafayette Parish Project.

PILOT PROJECTS

Pilot projects in Louisiana teach such subject areas as art, music, physical education, social studies and mathematics at least 50 per cent of the time in French to children in kindergarten and first and second grades. The plan is to add a grade level each year through fifth grade.

James Domengeaux of Lafayette, chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, and Dr. Ray Andrehoum, vice-president of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, will address the conference.

In addition to panel discussions and visits to the bilingual projects in St. Martin and Lafayette parishes, there will be demonstrations, discussion on parental and community involvement and future projections.