Scholarships for Study in Canada Are Presented

14 from Louisiana Will Attend Quebec School

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

LAFAYETTE, La. — Gov. Edwin W. Edwards has presented scholarships to 14 Louisiana students for a five-weeks summer French study program in Jonquiere, Quebec, Canada, according to information released by the office of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL).

The 14 recipients of full CODOFIL scholarships are scheduled to join another 125 Louisiana students and teachers in the program for which the University of Quebec gives six hours of college credit, according to the CODOFIL release. Participants can receive as many as 15 credit-hours from their summer stay in Jonquiere.

Edwards presented the scholarships in Baton Rouge in the presence of legislators, educators and friends and parents of the recipients.

MOVE SUPPORTED

State Supt. of Education Louis Michot was on hand for the ceremony and said his department is fully behind Louisiana's movement to preserve and expand the French language. He noted he especially backs CODOFIL's effort to "implement serious instruction of French in the schools from the earliest grades up."

CODOFIL chairman James Domengeaux congratulated the recipients and suggested that they can look forward to "an extremely pleasant vacation in one of the most beautiful sections of Canada and at the same time be exposed to a maximum of French environment where all activities are carried on in the French language."

Those receiving the scholarships, all winners of district and state high school rally competition in French, are: Mark Abrams, New Orleans; Maria Bertaut, Baton Rouge; Debra Campbell, Bogalusa; Fay Ellen Coco, Marksville; Rickey Fernandez, Carville; Harriet Johnson, New Orleans; Susan Kuehl, Lake Charles, Patricia Norwood, Lafayette; Theresa Savoy, Alexandria; John Spivey, Ruston; Charles Pace, Alexandria; Susan Long, New Orleans; Mary Dusenberry, Houma.

SUCCESS TOLD

"It is clear to me that the Jonquiere program in the state of Quebec is an overwhelming success since the Louisiana participation this year is double that of last year," Edwards said.

"Quebec was the first foreign government to recognize the value of the CODOFIL movement with practical programs back in 1969," he recalled, noting that the Quebec government is giving $10,000 to the 1972 program.

"Our national interest and our cultural and economic evolution demand that we develop second languages in this state and in other states of the union," he said. "We in Louisiana are fortunate that there is an advantageous basis because of the one and one-half million of its citizens who still speak or understand the French language."

The governor said he does not know of any greater educational advantage that could be rendered to the young people of Louisiana than that of giving them the opportunity of acquiring a second language.

"That is why I am particularly glad to honor you young Louisianians from throughout the state who have shown proficiency in a second language," he said. "I know that this experience of total exposure to the French language during this summer will serve you and the state well."

"Louisiana can and will show to the other states of the union and to the world that we want to end our linguistic provincialism," he stated.