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News From the Dean for International and Border Programs

Citizenship Diplomacy and International Learning Outcomes

In my column this month, I would like to suggest for discussion purposes an idea that I have been grappling with for some time—in a phrase, citizen diplomacy and international student learning outcomes. For a number of reasons, including political ideologies, technological innovations that have revolutionized the way that information and news is spread throughout the world, and the suspicion with which our country is viewed in many parts of the world, American diplomacy seems to be significantly challenged in effectively building relationships and goodwill throughout the globe.

In light of this challenge, it would seem international education—inclusive of campus-based internationally-focused courses and programs, study abroad, international service learning, international development projects, and the other varied ways in which our faculty, students, and staff learn about and interact with the world and other cultures—is more important than ever. Indeed, international education is essential to public or citizenship diplomacy as achieved through people-to-people relationships and activities. How many people do you, the reader, know, either in the U.S. and abroad, who have described how their lives were changed by involvement in activities with an international dimension and who retain throughout their careers and beyond positive contacts with colleagues from other countries?



Our contentious relationships with many nations and peoples have created a void for other organizations to step into, and my thought—indeed, my vision, my hope—is that our college graduates, NMSU graduates, will have been enabled through the appropriate “internationalization” experiences, whether these be in the classroom, in a study abroad experience, in an international service learning program, an international research or development project or any combination, to step into the void. That is, we can educate them to be citizen diplomats who know about the world around them, who understand and empathize with people from other cultures, and who realize that people around the world think just as well as we do, although they might think differently. Couldn’t we work this idea—citizen diplomacy and the “tools” needed to be effective citizen diplomats—into the beginnings of a systemic approach to global education partnered with an assessment instrument to measure the value added that a global university provides its students, faculty, staff, and community. What a challenge—what a wonderful, meaningful challenge it would be to create an intentional and coherent array of rich internationalization experiences for our students and faculty that would take them a long way toward being effective citizen diplomats of the world, and creating outcome meas-

ures to determine where and with whom we have succeeded and/or fallen short.

I would just note here that few truly successful models exist for measuring international student learning outcomes. NASULGC's Commission on International Programs is just now working on a report, *A National Action Agenda for Internationalizing Higher Education*, which focuses in part on student learning outcomes. Probably the best work in this area is that supported by ACE, an organization with which we at NMSU have been intimately involved for several years. Interestingly, within ACE's internationalization collaborative, the best work has been accomplished by the two- and four-year colleges. The comprehensive land grant and other big research universities still have a ways to go, and I believe that NMSU can be a pace-setter and lead the way. I would be interested in your thoughts.



Confucius Institute to Open August 30

The Confucius Institute at New Mexico State University will hold its official opening ceremony on August 30. There will be a formal opening of the Institute's offices in Monagle Hall at 11:00 am, followed by a reception in the Monagle courtyard. Among the invited guests will be representatives of the Chinese Embassy in Washington and the Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles, as well as Provincial Director of Higher Education from Hebei Province in China, the President of NMSU's partner college in China, Dr. Liu Guiyan, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of our partner school Mr. Wu Zhiyong, and other representatives of the Hebei Provincial Higher Education Department. President Michael Martin will officially open the Institute as Honorary Chairman of its Board of Directors.

The Confucius Institute is an outgrowth of the existing exchange program between New Mexico State and the Shijiazhuang Language and Culture College in northern China. Since 2002 NMSU has been sending students to study Chinese language and culture in Shijiazhuang, the capital of Hebei Province, about 280 kilometers south of Beijing. In exchange, teachers and Shijiazhuang have been coming to NMSU to teach Chinese language classes. NMSU students taking part in this exchange pay their regular tuition and fees at NMSU and have no other charges for the program in China. Some scholarship funds are available to help with defraying the costs of travel to China as well.

The Confucius Institute will be undertaking a series of programs in its inaugural year. There will be workshops for businesses in the Las Cruces area and in Albuquerque to learn more about doing business in China and US-China trade relations. There will be public programs on Chinese culture. The institute will also be seeking to promote the teaching of Chinese in the public schools. And there will be an international academic conference in Spring 2008 on the US-Mexico-China triangular relationship, exploring questions about how the rise of China as a global economic player is affecting existing economic relationships such as that between the U.S. and Mexico. For further information about the Confucius Institute, please contact the Institute Director, Ken Hammond at 646-1818 or khammond@nmsu.edu.

English Proficiency Requirements for International Applicants

For admission to NMSU an international applicant must submit proof of his/her English proficiency by either taking the TOEFL or IELTS test. This requirement may be waived for students who have completed a degree in the US or from a country on the OIP list of TOEFL/IELTS exempt countries including the United Kingdom, Australia, or Canada (except Quebec).

The TOEFL test given by ETS measures the ability to communicate using reading, listening, speaking and writing skills. Although most students now take the Internet-based Test (iBT) there are two older versions that are still acceptable, the Computer-based Test (CBT) and the original Paper-based Test (PBT). Because TOEFL scores are valid for two years from the time the test is taken, NMSU will accept an official test report from any version of the test.

For regular graduate admission, the minimum TOEFL requirements are 71 iBT or 197 CBT or 530 PBT. Applicants with TOEFL scores in the ranges of 61-70 iBT, 173-193 CBT or 500-523 PBT may be admitted on a provisional basis and are required to take the English Screening Test given by the Communication Studies Department prior to class registration the first semester.

For an undergraduate admission, the TOEFL requirements are 61 iBT, 173 CBT or 500 PBT.

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is designed to assess the language ability of candidates who need to study or work where English is the language of communication. The test is jointly managed globally by the

University of Cambridge English for Speakers of Other Languages Examinations, the British Council and IELTS Australia. IELTS tests applicants in four skills areas, listening, reading

For a regular graduate admission, an IELTS score of 6.0 is required or a 5.0 for provisional admission. An undergraduate applicant must submit an IELTS score of 5.0 or higher. If you have questions about either the TOEFL or IELTS tests, please contact International Admissions, 646-5483 or ias@nmsu.edu.

International Travel

President Michael Martin, Everett Egginton, Thomas Burton, and Ida Baca will travel to Chihuahua City, Chihuahua, Mexico on August 7th to formally sign the Aerospace Dual Degree Sub-agreement with the University of Chihuahua and a General Cooperative Agreement with the Secretary of Education and Culture, Maria Guadalupe Chacón Monárrez for potential collaboration in the state of Chihuahua.

William Eamon (Regents Professor of History) presented papers at two conferences during the summer of 2007 in Spain, including “The Scientific Revolution and the Rhythms of Everyday Life” for a conference on the Scientific Revolution in Madrid and “Appearance, Artifice, Reality: Collecting Secrets in a Courtly Culture,” for a conference on “Art and Science in Baroque Spain.”

Twenty-Fourth Annual World Food Day Teleconference, October 16, 2007

The title of this year’s annual World Food Day Teleconference is “Climate: Changes, Challenges and Consequences.” The links between climate change, hunger and poverty will be the focus of the 2007 teleconference. Three international leaders – Suzanne Hunt, FAO consultant and Biofuels Project Manager at Worldwatch Institute, Dr. Cynthia Rosenzweig, Research Scientists and Leader of the Climate Impacts Group at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies and Dr. Robert T. Watson, Chief Scientists for the World Bank and recently elected Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – will discuss the many crosscutting issues of global climate

change and the potentially disastrous consequences, especially for millions of poor and chronically undernourished people. The overwhelming majority of the world’s climate scientists are convinced that the looming crisis is caused primarily by “humankind’s activities” and will require immediate and farsighted action by all nations, rich and poor. The Office of International and Border Programs at NMSU will be scheduling the teleconference. For additional information, please call 646-4528

EDITORIAL NOTE:

THIS NEWSLETTER IS RELEASED THE BEGINNING OF EACH MONTH. THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF NEWS ITEMS IS THE 25TH OF EACH MONTH. PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS WHICH ARE PLANNED AND/OR ARE SCHEDULED FOR SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE. THIS NEWSLETTER IS INTENDED TO SHARE INFORMATION AND TO INFORM OTHERS ON CAMPUS OF UPCOMING AND PENDING ACTIVITIES, TRAVEL, VISITORS ON CAMPUS, ETC. FOR THIS REASON, ITEMS WHICH ARE SUBMITTED FOR ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE WILL ONLY BE UTILIZED IF THEY HAVE SOME RELEVANCE TO FUTURE ACTIVITIES. PLEASE MAKE SUBMISSIONS TO [CIP-ADM@NMSU.EDU](mailto:cip-adm@nmsu.edu). IF YOU WISH TO REVIEW OLD ISSUES OF THE INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS ISSUES FOR THE LAST 12 MONTHS CAN BE FOUND ON THIS SITE.

For news contributions and/or comments on this newsletter, e-mail cip-adm@nmsu.edu or send comments to MSC 3567.

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