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News from the Dean for International & Border Programs

USE OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

On May 7, 2008, the American Council on Education's (ACE) Division of International Initiatives sent to NMSU's President, Michael Martin, the report of its peer review visit to NMSU conducted from February 25 – 28, 2008. The comprehensive report looked at all facets of NMSU's international programs across the entire university, highlighting strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities. The peer review team was particularly impressed with NMSU's collaborative work and strategic partnerships with sister organizations in Chihuahua. The remainder of my column this month is taken from the aforementioned ACE report; specifically the section focusing on "Strategic Partnerships," which details the peer review team's impressions of this facet of NMSU's international work.

The global events and processes of the last ten years have given a new urgency to the internationalization of U.S. colleges and universities. They have also reworked how such academic internationalization efforts should be focused. U.S. institutions of higher education have historically emphasized the accumulation of international expertise and resources within the boundaries of their own campuses, gazing outward at a distant world through the lens of area studies and similarly specialized centers. International education, in turn, has been directed to those few students interested in these specialties.

This inward focus has recently come under some scrutiny, however. The events and processes impelling the increased internationalization of U.S. higher education, have international collaboration and networking at their core. They reflect the increasing globalization of all aspects of our lives, including the academic enterprise itself. These events and processes also demand that internationalization be spread far beyond a few specialist disciplines, so that it becomes part of the educational experience of all students, no matter what their fields of study.

In this light the most forward-looking forms of internationalization in the 21st century are outwardly directed. They emphasize international networking, the sharing of resources with partner institutions, the development of collaborative projects of research and professional application, the exchange of students and faculty. Furthermore, they draw all disciplines and professional fields into such work, identifying the broad goals of international learning that apply to all students.



The Review Team finds NMSU to be an exemplary leader in such comprehensive, outwardly-directed forms of internationalization. We are particularly impressed with the remarkable network of collaborative activities that NMSU has built with its neighboring state of Chihuahua, Mexico. It is hard to imagine a more robust set of partnerships, which spread from NGOs working with indigenous groups to commercial transfer collaborations in advanced technology. The NMSU office in Chihuahua City is an innovative and effective driver of these efforts. The result is a set of activities that spread broadly across nearly all programs at NMSU, drawing faculty, students, and staff into advanced forms of international learning.

In the new forms of internationalization that are emerging in the 21st century, land grant universities have the potential to play a leading role. We find NMSU to be at the very forefront of this movement. Its geographical location, in the borderlands, has certainly been a great resource in such efforts. This resource of location has, however, been matched and channeled by great creativity and expertise. NMSU stands as a national model of how institutions can use partnerships to advance mutual goals. University international partnerships fan out across a continuum from narrow, single-purpose, instrumental relationships to broad, far-reaching, transformational ones. NMSU's connection to the state of Chihuahua is certainly among the best of the latter.

The Review Team also views NMSU's careful decision to expand its significant international partnerships as a very positive next step. Its plan to triangulate relationships between New Mexico, Latin America, and East Asia is timely and appropriate. The strength of the partnership with Chihuahua will provide a very solid base for these efforts. We suggest that NMSU seek out appropriate partnerships and to develop them in multi-layered ways:

- ✦ *Increasing faculty collaborations for research with colleagues abroad;*
- ✦ *Increasing other means of faculty and curriculum development;*
- ✦ *Improving NMSU's ability to recruit top students;*
- ✦ *Developing more study abroad options for NMSU students;*
- ✦ *Developing alumni relations and organizations in partnering countries; and*
- ✦ *Improving NMSU's ability to fundraise abroad*

Errett Egginton

International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) Worldwide Exchanges

NMSU is a proud member of ISEP, a worldwide network providing affordable exchange and study abroad options. NMSU students interested in participating in an exchange pay tuition and housing costs to NMSU allowing students to obtain a more affordable experience in one of the many partner institutions abroad. Whether students are interested in studying in English or a foreign language such as Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese, or Chinese there are many locations and programs from which students may choose. By participating in one of the ISEP exchanges, students can study all over the world from Argentina to Japan to the United Kingdom; in return, other ISEP institutions send their students to NMSU. This program is perfect for a student who is sophomore level or above, has at least a 2.75 GPA, and is interested in experiencing a new culture. Many fields of study are available, but they vary by institution. Some scholarships are available for students seeking financial assistance. For more information on studying around the world with ISEP visit <http://www.isep.org/> or contact us at:

Garcia Annex Room 237; stdyabrd@nmsu.edu; or 575-646-5107.



Michael Vega in Japan



Michael Vega with Shinto Priest

International Travel

Christopher Brown, Department of Geography will be presenting an invited paper at the Center for Canadian-American Studies at Western Washington University. The Center is one of only two National Resource Centers for the study of Canada in the United States, and funding is provided by U.S. Department of Education. Through his work with the Association of Borderland Studies, Dr. Brown has worked to build a means to drive comparative research of US-Canada and US-Mexico border issues. Don Alpers, the Director of the Center at Western Washington, has asked him to present a paper that examines the intersection of security and environment in the North American Context. He will travel to Western Washington on October 29th, to present the paper, and also have a chance to meet and network with researchers at the University.

Twenty-Fifth Annual World Food Day Teleconference, October 16, 2008

The title of this year's annual World Food Day Teleconference is "Choices for a Warm and Hungry Planet." This year's teleconference will examine the issues affected, the challenges posed and diversity of approaches what will be required to respond. As one expert has said the "catastrophes are not democratic." The multifaceted ripple effects are being felt from main street to the UN and are inspiring urgent searches for new civil society partnerships including the academic community. Three experts from very different backgrounds will be the guest speakers. Dr. Nancy Birdsall, founding president of the Center for Global Development; Dr. Siwa Msangi, from the International Food Policy Research Institute; and Mark Ritchie, Minnesota's Secretary of State will discuss the many cross-cutting issues and consider ways to encourage collaborative efforts by concerned citizens in every sector of society. In addition to the guest panelists there will be a live uplink from the World Food Prize ceremonies in Iowa.

The Office of International & Border Programs is attempting to locate a conference room/classroom where we can connect to the broadcast. If we are successful, the location will be provided in the next newsletter. The live broadcast will be shown locally from 10:00am to 1:00pm. If anyone is interested in participating in this year's broadcast, please call Bertha at 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. IF YOU WISH TO REVIEW OLD ISSUES OF THE INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS ISSUES FOR THE LAST 12 MONTHS CAN BE FOUND ON THIS SITE.

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