As part of an international exchange stimulated by the recent NAFTA accord, nine university faculty and administrators from Mexico and Canada visited IU-Bloomington from March 8-12, under the auspices of USIA’s North American Higher Education Cooperation Project. Members of the delegation were: Salvador Acosta Romero (University of Guadalajara); Erardo Mario Elizondo Villarreal (N邢o Leon Autonomous University); Pedro Hector Rivas Figueroa (Laguna Autonomous University); Angel Montanez (Center for Technical and Higher Education, Mexico); Audrey Kobayashi (McGill University); Frank Wilson (University of New Brunswick); Titus Mathews (University of Calgary); Larry Sproul (University of British Columbia); and Jacques Parent (University of Laval). Topics of special concern to the educators included: business management; public administration; environment and sustainable development; continuing and distance education; minority recruitment and retention; recreational sports; and academic issues in teaching women’s studies, computer science, chemistry, geography, health sciences, engineering, and physics.

On March 9, SPEA International Programs Director Randall Baker welcomed the group for a tour of SPEA facilities, which included a visit to the Global Environmental Change Center, hosted by Director J.C. Randolph, as well as meetings with SPEA faculty and students. On March 10, School of Education faculty briefed the delegation on current research activities and presented a demonstration of distance education technologies. The afternoon program featured a tour of IU’s Center for Research and Training on Global Environmental Change, hosted by Director Emilio Moran. On Friday, March 11, the delegation visited the IU School of Business, meeting with Indiana Center for Global Business Director Larry Davidson and Business School faculty. The educators concluded their visit by touring OIP facilities and meeting with OIP staff.

This year, IU-Kokomo and Delco Electronics Corporation in Kokomo have cooperated in the development of a new continuing studies language education program. According to Donald Lane, Director of IU-K’s Division of Continuing Studies, the on-site training program, which includes language studies as well as cultural instruction, has been especially tailored to the needs of Delco employees.

This innovative program which began last July, is a cooperative project involving the Delco administration and its training services, and IU-K’s Continuing Studies division and Humanities department. “This program demonstrates business and industry working together with education for the benefit of both,” says Lane. “It allows us to provide a service to a major donor and supporter of the university, while providing the campus with additional students.”

One hundred Delco employees have made the two-year commitment to complete the Spanish or Japanese language studies program offered by IU-Kokomo, with enrollment almost evenly divided between the two language programs. The Delco students are employed in various areas of the company and include engineers, supervisors, managers, and personnel employees. IU-K Continuing Studies instructors teaching at the Delco site include: Jennifer Alcorn and Teresa Canganelli for Spanish; and Rex Kamata, Troy McAninch, and Chihoko Wake for Japanese.

The curriculum for the two-year program consists of non-credit and credit portions, with individuals receiving six hours of college credit upon completion of the program. The credit portion of the curriculum emphasizes formal language instruction and includes business and cultural studies as well. Non-credit instruction, which involves some language practice, focuses on studying the culture’s history, geography, and business protocol. “In addition to learning the language,” states Lane, “this program will teach respect and a fundamental knowledge of the society’s culture and how to effectively conduct business in foreign countries.”