New Funding for Global Connections

Grant to develop international studies programs for Indiana classrooms via interactive video

Over the next few years, many schools in Indiana will come online for two-way interactive videoconferencing, the latest development in communications technology that uses 21st century skills for innovative teaching and learning.

The result will be a distance-learning network of schools linked to each other and to higher education institutions and cultural organizations within the state.

The Center for Educational Communications (CEC), funded by a major start-up grant from Ameritech to enhance distance technology for education in Indiana, has awarded a two-year grant jointly to IU Bloomington's Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) of the School of Education, and the Office of International Programs to enhance global education in the schools by means of this technology.

The goal of the project, "International Studies for Indiana Schools," will be to develop a small number of prototypical interactive programs suitable for the needs of K-12 teachers who include international units in their curriculum, but whose resources are limited.

One of the first components of the project will be a course, "Global Education for Teachers," to begin February 1 and taught via videoconferencing technology by Howard Mehlinger, director of the CEC.

B. J. Eib (CEC) and Roxana Newman (International Programs) are working with area studies outreach coordinators Virginia DeLancey and Susan Hume (African Studies Program), Karin Ford (Inner Asian & Uralic Center), Anjali Sengupta (East Asian Studies Center), Sarah Bayerle (Latin American & Caribbean Studies Center), Maha Nour Eldin (Middle Eastern Studies Program), Denise Gardiner (Russian & East European Institute), and Amanda Ciccarelli (West European Studies) to design collaborative interactive programs.

In the past months, they have been meeting with groups of Indiana teachers and school media consultants to exchange ideas and resources and introduce them to the broader opportunities afforded by distance learning technologies.

IU Signs Cooperative Agreement with University of Yaoundé

The President of Indiana University and the Rector of the University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon, recently signed a cooperative agreement for projects of common interest and benefit to members of both institutions. This initiative results from a request by faculty members of the African Studies Program, IU Bloomington, to have an affiliation with a francophone African university, as well as an expression of interest by the University of Yaoundé.

Virginia DeLancey, assistant director of African Studies, traveled to Cameroon last summer to develop the agreement. She conferred with Joseph-Marie Essomba, dean of the Faculty of Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences, as well as with other administrators in the university and the Ministry of Higher Education. Cooperation between the two institutions is envisioned in several ways: an exchange of faculty members, students, and administrators for the purposes of teaching, studying, conducting research; publication of research findings; an exchange of publications; and library development. The linkage will also provide new opportunities for institutional affiliation for IU faculty and students conducting research on their own grants in Cameroon. A proposal for funding from the United States Information Agency is now pending, but both universities are seeking to identify resources to support these activities.

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