IU Kokomo Chancellor Emita Hill Resigns

Emita B. Hill, chancellor for eight years of Indiana University Kokomo, announced in January that she will resign from her position by September 1. “I’ve loved every minute of my time at Kokomo,” Hill said. “However, I need to move closer to my family, most of whom are either on the east coast or in Western Europe.”

During Hill’s tenure, the campus has greatly increased its international focus. She spearheaded the development of international exchange agreements between IU Kokomo and several universities abroad: Pingtung Teachers College and Taipen Municipal Teachers College, both in Taiwan; Sripatum University in Thailand; and Chukyo Women’s University in Japan. And on March 4, a new international exchange agreement will be established with Sunshin Women’s University in Korea, when a high-level delegation from that school will visit Kokomo for a program on global management, and the formal signing of the agreement.

Of these agreements, Hill says: “Kokomo is far less diverse than a Chicago or New York, so the experience is even more important for that reason if our students are ready to be citizens in the global society of the next century.”

Before coming to IUK, Hill was vice president for institutional advancement at Lehman College, part of the City University of New York, Bronx campus, where she also served as associate provost for academic affairs and as chair and professor of Romance Languages. She has a long-standing interest in languages, international affairs, and diversity issues, both domestic and international. In recognition of her dedication to diversity, she was honored recently during two Martin Luther King, Jr. ceremonies.

Hill’s recent international activities include a visit last summer to Beijing on behalf of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) to promote exchanges between U.S. and Chinese institutions. Hill chairs the AASCU Commission on International Programs.

She was also a faculty presenter at the prestigious Salzburg Festival in Austria in the fall, where the topic was “Higher Education: Leadership and Institutional Reform.” In Paris she was one of only forty U.S. representatives to the historic first World Conference on Higher Education sponsored by UNESCO.

Hill traveled to Taipen College in December to present a paper at an annual conference held there, along with IUK education department faculty members Lian-Hwang Chui and Margo Sorgman.

IU president Myles Brand says the search will begin immediately for Hill’s successor, with the goal of appointing a new chancellor by fall semester.

— EAB

IN OTHER IUK NEWS...

The city of Kokomo draws an increasing number of international visitors and employees, due to several exchange agreements between IUK and universities abroad. In addition, the location of international corporate headquarters in Kokomo, such as Delphi Delco Electronics Systems’ operational base, foster further international exposure. An international women’s organization holds monthly meetings at IUK’s Kelley House. The group includes employees of Delco and their spouses as well as members of the university community.

Catherine Barnes, campus climate director, regularly schedules events on campus to bring people together in order to promote cross-cultural understanding. Each April the International Day Festival draws thousands of north central Indiana residents to the campus. In November IUK’s Destination Education program hosted an ethnic food carry-in to increase cultural diversity awareness.

Also on the international front, School of Nursing instructor Deborah Fawcett recently visited the Kenyan village of Kikuyu. Fawcett and eight others were part of a missionary team sent by the First Presbyterian Church of Kokomo to assist at the Kikuyu Hospital for three weeks last summer. The missionaries were able to supply some prescription drugs to the hospital through donations from the Eli Lilly Company.

And in March, the IUK art gallery will host an exhibit entitled “Las (IN)Visibles: Women Artists of Uruguay.” Works by painters, printmakers, photographers, videographers, poets, performance artists, and musicians will be presented as a bilingual exhibition, with all text in both Spanish and English.