IUK Sends Delegation to Taiwan

Four Indiana University-Kokomo faculty and staff members recently visited Taiwan to participate in the dedication of a new faculty and administration building at its sister institution, Pingtung National Teachers College.

Representing IU at the dedication in Pingtung, Taiwan were Gordon Welty, vice chancellor for information systems; Michael Tulley (Education); C. Catherine Barnes, coordinator of campus climate; and Sue-Jen Chen, director of instructional technology.

The IU-Kokomo delegation presented a special commemorative plaque to the administrators of Pingtung. The group also had the opportunity to plan the first of many educational exchanges between IU and Pingtung, scheduled to begin next summer.

Pingtung has agreed to send as many as a dozen students to Kokomo. “We are very excited about the prospect of being able to share our culture and campus with the students of Pingtung,” says Barnes. “We are in the process of looking for host families for these students during their stay in Kokomo. The exchange is going to be a wonderful opportunity for those students to share their passion for education with our community.”

Pingtung is one of five universities that have formed international exchange agreements with IU. These agreements enable students, faculty, and administrators to experience educational and cultural opportunities abroad.

The four other agreements are with Sripatum University in Thailand, Taipei Municipal Teachers College (Taiwan), Chukyo Women’s College (Japan), and Sung Shin Women’s University (Korea).

Education professor Tulley also had the opportunity to participate in an exchange visit with Taipei Municipal College in 1997. Prior to that, he taught in Malaysia through an Indiana University cooperative program.

Despite the many cultural variances, Tulley relished the opportunity to teach in Asia. “Once I started spending time in that part of the world, I quickly discovered that I had the necessary flexibility and tolerance to live and work there successfully, without being sidetracked by the differences in culture and standards of living,” Tulley says.

Educators like Tulley find that international experiences add to their effectiveness in the classroom once they return to campus. Among the other IU faculty who have taught abroad are: Lian-Hwang Chiu and Margo Sorgman (Education), who taught in Taipei; and Donna McLean (Communication Arts), who spent part of last summer at Sripatum University directing and teaching a public speaking course for students and faculty.

— David Nelson
Office of Media Relations, IU

Members of the IU-Kokomo delegation attend the dedication for the new faculty and administration building at Pingtung National Teachers College, Pingtung, Taiwan. Seated (from left) are Sue-Jen Chen, director of instructional technology; Gordon Welty, vice chancellor for information systems; C. Catherine Barnes, coordinator of campus climate; conference participant Mark Montgomery, and his interpreter.