In the spring of 2004, administrators and faculty members from Yeditepe University (YU), Istanbul, Turkey, selected 11 of their students to participate in a specially arranged summer 2004 program for engineering and technology students at the IUPUI School of Engineering and Technology (SET). The program was designed in accordance with an agreement for friendship and cooperation between YU and IUPUI, which was signed in May 2003.

SET faculty members reviewed qualifications of the Turkish students and matched each with suitable internship assignments in the school’s laboratories in mechanical engineering, electrical and computer engineering, electrical and computer engineering technology, and computer and information technology. Because English is the language of instruction at YU, participants arrived with strong English language qualifications to complement their technical backgrounds.

The students were at IUPUI for the whole month of July 2004. SET’s Office of International Services coordinated support services for the Turkish participants by arranging housing, orientation, and activities that involved them in recreational and cultural experiences in the central Indiana area. Activities designed to offer broader perspectives on life and work in Middle America included visits to local industries, cultural events, shopping tours, and a seminar series of lectures and discussions on cultural and technical topics. Industry visits were arranged in cooperation with public relations offices at Cummins, Inc., Carrier Corporation, Kelley Racing, and Diversified Systems, Inc. Marilyn Mangin of the school’s Office of International Services coordinated the social and cultural activities and industry visits.

Timothy Diemer of SET’s Department of Organizational Leadership coordinated the seminar series on technical and cross-cultural topics.

On the final day of the summer program the Yeditepe University participants presented multimedia descriptions of their laboratory work to an audience of SET faculty and staff members. Acting on advice and feedback from both participants and SET faculty members, H. Öner Yurtseven, dean of the School of Engineering and Technology, intends to offer a similar program to YU students during summer 2005.

The exchange agreement between IUPUI and YU also allowed two IUPUI students to attend a summer 2004 program at Yeditepe University.

—Timothy Diemer
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