



**WEST VIRGINIA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Conference Seeks to Internationalize Higher Education in West Virginia

Charleston – State education and business leaders will gather on April 24-25 in Charleston to learn how to better prepare the citizens of West Virginia to live and work in an increasingly globalized 21st century.

The Higher Education Policy Commission is sponsoring the first-ever conference to focus on internationalizing higher education in West Virginia. “This is an historic event,” says Bruce Flack, Interim Chancellor. “This conference will help our faculty and administrators to develop a blueprint for global education that offers real solutions and operable ideas to apply on their campuses.”

The conference will feature some of the nation’s leading experts in the areas of international education, including:

- William B. DeLauder, President Emeritus, Delaware State University and Executive Director, Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program
- Allan Goodman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Institute of International Education
- Josef Mestenhauser, Distinguished International Emeritus Professor, University of Minnesota
- Rosemary G. Feal, Executive Director, Modern Language Association
- Stephen Dunnett, President, Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) and Vice Provost for International Education, State University of New York at Buffalo

State education and business leaders, including Jay Cole, WV Governors Liaison for Education Policy and Deputy Secretary, WV Department of Education and the Arts; Steven Paine, State Superintendent of Schools, West Virginia Department of Education ; Don Gallion, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer, FCX Systems, Inc., Chairman of the West Virginia Export Council & Chairman of the National District Export Council; and Jack Hammersmith, Professor of History, West Virginia University and Director of FACDIS: WV Consortium for Faculty and Course Development in International Studies, will also share their perspectives on the future direction of international education in West Virginia.

Colleges and universities throughout the State have appointed special teams composed of faculty and administrators to examine the progress their institutions are making with regard to international education. The team members will attend the conference and continue meeting after the conference to develop campus-specific action plans for internationalizing campuses across the state.

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“I have been amazed at the level of pre-conference participation and the numbers of registrations we have received from just about every public and private university in the State,” said Clark Egnor, Executive Director of the Center for International Programs at Marshall University and chair of the conference planning committee.

According to Egnor, the conference will focus on several key areas of international education, specifically the internationalization of the undergraduate curriculum and study abroad, recruitment and integration of international students, language education, and higher education leadership for overcoming obstacles.

“Due to the homogeneity of our State’s population,” says Egnor, “there is a greater need in West Virginia than other regions of our country for an education that prepares college students to be functional in a global environment. This conference will help higher education in West Virginia rise to this challenge.”

