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**HEPC ANNOUNCES INTERNATIONALIZING HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT WINNERS**

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** – Six West Virginia public colleges and universities received a total of \$90,000 to develop or expand international education initiatives that will improve the global literacy of their students. Dr. Brian Noland, chancellor of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC), announced that Concord University, Fairmont State University, Marshall Community and Technical College, Shepherd University, West Virginia State University and West Virginia University were each recipients of Commission grant awards of up to \$15,000.

“These grants will help our colleges and universities to better prepare their graduates for an increasingly globalized 21st century by integrating international experiences and perspectives into the university curriculum,” said Noland.

The grant awards are part of the Commission’s continuing emphasis on internationalizing higher education in West Virginia.

Dr. Bruce Flack, Director of Academic Affairs for the Commission, points to several other recent accomplishments, including a conference for internationalizing the higher education curriculum in April 2006, the establishment of the Consortium for Internationalizing Higher Education in May 2006, and a workshop on funding sources and grantsmanship for internationalizing higher education in November 2006. “These accomplishments are just the beginning of an unprecedented state level effort to develop and enhance the international dimension of our colleges and universities in West Virginia,” stated Flack.

According to Clark Egnor, Executive Director of Marshall University’s Center for International Programs and the Chair for the Consortium for Internationalizing Higher Education in West Virginia, the grants will be a welcome opportunity for the colleges and universities who are faced with the challenge of internationalizing their courses, departments, colleges and campuses in an environment of scarce financial resources.

“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 an increasingly globalized economy. These grants and other support from the HEPC will help higher education in West Virginia rise to this challenge.”

Totaling up to \$15,000 each, the six winning grant applications were chosen from proposals submitted by the majority of the 21 public colleges and universities in West Virginia.

The grants were awarded to the following colleges and universities to implement sustainable programs that seek to internationalize the curriculum with some impact on international student enrollment or sending West Virginia students abroad:

**CONCORD UNIVERSITY**  
**ATHENS, WV**

The Concord University project will seek to increase international student enrollment by 30% over the Fall 2006 head count by establishing three new overseas admissions agents in Indonesia and Turkey and solidifying an existing articulation agreement with a Japanese junior college. Concord will strengthen its foundation to internationalize its campus and integrate the increased international student diversity by revising its mission statement to include an international focus and complete an analysis of the current course inventory to identify how present international content in its curriculum may be enhanced and what new courses may be developed.

**FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**FAIRMONT, WV**

The Fairmont State University project includes collaboration with Pierpont Community & Technical College to increase the overall international student enrollment at both schools by 10% by targeting Nepal, India and China with specific strategies while incorporating the increased international student diversity into its curriculum. Grant funding and the increased funds gained from out-of-state tuition will be used to develop an international student-friendly website and send teams of faculty and personnel from Admissions and Recruiting to high schools and universities to develop cooperative, inter-institutional relationships in the target countries.

**MARSHALL COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE**  
**HUNTINGTON, WV**

The Marshall Community and Technical College project seeks to develop a dual-degree degree program in Information Technology with Shanghai University of Electric Power in Shanghai, China. The project will promote joint activities between the two institutions, including student exchange, teacher and scholarly exchange, exchange of academic resources, cooperation in scientific study and research and joint holding of academic conferences. The project will also seek to develop an articulation with bachelor degree programs at Marshall University to enable graduates from the China-based associate dual-degree program to come and study on the Marshall campus in Huntington.

**SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY**  
**SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV**

The Shepherd University project seeks to develop a collaborative agreement with a college in Jamaica to offer up to 10 of their students each year the opportunity to gain international teaching experience through a new international teaching practicum. Shepherd faculty will accompany their students on a two-week teaching trip to Jamaica in December 2008. Students will hold a fund-raiser, "A Night in Jamaica", with Jamaica food and music during the Fall 2007 semester with proceeds used toward travel costs.

**WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**INSTITUTE, WV**

The West Virginia State University project will improve capacity for student exchange programs by sending personnel from the admissions, student services and financial aid offices to workshops that will train them in study abroad advising and international students issues related to visas and recruitment. The project will also include several international events as well as a feasibility study of possibly establishing English as a second language program on the campus which may serve as an entry point for matriculating international students into full-time degree programs.

**WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY**  
**MORGANTOWN, WV**

The West Virginia University project will develop a specialized curriculum that will help prospective undergraduate and graduate international students adjust to their life in West Virginia. The project will target the international students who study in the Intensive English Program and will offer content-based courses to help the students become familiar with the culture and history of West Virginia before they matriculate into the university. The course will include trips to cultural and historical places of significance in West Virginia, as well as guest speakers and visits to K-12 schools.