

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Annual Report 2018-2019



Message from the President

There are many reasons for the success of West Chester University but one important reason is because we are a university that understands the need to think internationally. We prepare our students to be responsible global citizens and to recognize the importance of learning about and understanding cultural, religious, and ideological differences.

This past academic year has been a time of many successes for the Center for International Programs. A team of University leaders from all across campus worked with the center to complete a rigorous self-study facilitated by the American Council of Education's International Laboratory. It helped us identify existing strengths and opportunities so as to advance our international programming even further.

In 2018-19, more than 470 students participated in international learning experiences. These included traditional study abroad programs, as well as participation in conferences, service learning, music performances and more. We recognize that not all students have the resources to take advantage of international experiences. To this end, I am very proud to support the Golden Rams Initiative, which has provided more than 40 students from underrepresented communities with the opportunity to participate in study abroad.

Currently, WCU is home to more than 130 international students from 47-plus countries. We have worked diligently to strengthen our support services for these students, which will create a strong foundation for future international enrollment growth.

International programs are critically important: they add to the recognition of West Chester University as a top-tier university, expand the outlook of the campus community, foster diversity, and bring opportunities for collaboration with institutions around the world. Most importantly, the internationalization of West Chester University enables our students to learn about different cultures, religions, and ideologies as they learn to value their role as global citizens.

I invite you to learn more about international programs at West Chester University in the pages that follow.

Sincerely,



Christopher M. Fiorentino, Ph.D.
President, West Chester University

#14

WCU's rank across the nation of similarly classified schools for short term study abroad opportunities

faculty & staff from 66 countries and 6 continents



64

number of countries our students have traveled in the 3 last years



9 faculty and staff Fulbright-award recipients on campus

47 countries represented by international students across campus



750+

travel
abroad
opportunities

\$200 - \$2,000

average scholarship range for study abroad programs

over

160

universities from US, Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico,
and the U.S. Virgin Islands to choose from
to study for a semester or a year.

ELS Language Center
for international students



8

education abroad
partner organizations

Message from Jeff Osgood

As we look towards the beginning of the new decade, it is clear that institutions of higher education must take on more responsibility for educating students in a global context. West Chester University (WCU) has significantly expanded the scope and diversity of its internationalization efforts on campus. We have made great strides in the area of education abroad – with more programming, more students studying abroad, increased faculty and staff led programs, a wider array of choices and options, and better oversight and management. We now have in place more effective international student support services, programs, and processes that will create a strong foundation for future enrollment growth. We have built a broader network of international partnerships, both at the regional and local levels, but also nationally and internationally. Finally, we have produced a realistic WCU Global Strategy via the completion of the American Council of Education’s Internationalization Laboratory.

I would like to thank Dr. Peter Loedel who led the internationalization efforts at WCU for over five years, before returning to his faculty position as Professor in the Department of Political Science. His years of service and leadership have yielded a positive momentum University-wide, which furthers the internationalization activities across the campus.

I would like to encourage all members of WCU to engage in the many internationalization activities available on the campus. Feel free to contact me or Vishal Shah (Interim Associate Vice President for the Center for International Programs) with any suggestions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jeffery L. Osgood, Jr.

Deputy Provost and Dean of the Graduate School



Internationalization Laboratory



A Roadmap for Global Engagement

WCU conducted a self-study on internationalization activities and developed a strategic and intentional strategy for the future. The self-study was guided through the framework of the Internationalization Laboratory of the American Council on Education. The Global Leadership Team (GLT), comprised of members from various units across the campus, worked on the self-study for two years with input from the entire university community and a team of external reviewers. The self-study report is based on evaluating the internationalization structure, achievements, and opportunities at WCU along these four goals. As GLT analyzed the campus feedback and also the responses to the self-study questions from twenty-one units across campus, a clear consensus emerged. *The WCU community is truly committed to prepare our students to be citizens of a multicultural community, both at home and in a globalized world.* The GLT believes the proposed outcomes to be realistic and achievable within the 2019-2022 three-year timeframe.

Goal 1:

Increase the number of international students enrolled in our academic offerings onsite and through distance education.



Goal 1 Targets/Outcomes:

- Increase the international F-1 student population to 3% of the University student population by 2022.
- Increase the student participation in international student programs and services by 25% by 2021.

Goal 2: Through improved access, diversify and strengthen international educational experiences for the WCU community.

Goal 2 Targets/Outcomes:

- Increase participation in and access to education abroad programming by 50% by 2021.
- Create a permanent funding model to cover the costs of faculty/staff leading study abroad programs by 2021.

Goal 3: Integrate global learning outcomes into our curriculum, co-curriculum, and academic programs.

Goal 3 Targets/Outcomes:

- By the end of Spring 2020, the WCU Curriculum and Academic Policies Council (CAPC) will approve the definition of “Global Learning” and the objectives and outcomes that are required for the designation.
- By the end of Spring 2021, WCU’s CAPC will designate curricular and academic programs or courses as “Global Learning” and the Division of Student Affairs will approve a Global Learning Initiative as part of its sustainable leadership programming.



Goal 4:

Promote global awareness and engagement in research, scholarship, teaching and service.

Goal 4 Targets/Outcomes:

- By Fall 2021, academic units will update the departmental teacher-scholar models to include the consideration of globally-focused criteria/standards for faculty promotion and tenure.
- All WCU Divisions and Units should embrace and incorporate an internationalization value statement and commitment to global engagement in their mission or program statements by Spring 2021.



WCU Business Management China Program with Beijing Union University

Twenty-one students and two faculty (Dr. Linda Zhu and Dr. Kelly Fisher, Management) traveled over spring break to Beijing to participate in an intensive experiential business program in partnership with Beijing Union University (BUU). BUU hosted the group for ten days with trips to Alibaba and other business and cultural sites. Students also lived in the international student dorms on campus and had opportunities to engage with BUU students to engage on a wide variety of cultural activities – from cooking Chinese food, visiting artists, and practicing calligraphy. Students also visited a number of historical sites in Beijing, from the Imperial Palace to the Great Wall. WCU then hosted a group of eight students and one faculty member from BUU in mid-April. Students visited QVC, pitched their business ideas at the Cottrell Center Business Pitch Competition, and enjoyed meeting up with their friends and attending a Phillies game. The goal of the program is to build for the future with another program in 2020!





WCU International Partnership Development







West Chester University Honors College Celebrates 20 years and its 10th Program to South Africa!

Focused on leadership development, research, student service, and volunteerism, WCU's Honor College ran its 10th faculty led program to South Africa in May 2019. The program's sustainability is due to the efforts of the Honors College Director, Dr. Kevin Dean, and the excellent partnerships he has developed in South Africa. Most notable is the opportunity to work with Gail Johnson, Director of Nkosi's Haven in Johannesburg. Students from the college donate countless hours and have raised tens of thousands of dollars over the past ten years to help fund programs at Nkosi's Haven. Over the past nearly twenty years, close to two hundred students and dozens of faculty and staff have traveled to South Africa to take part in the program. Congratulations Dr. Dean for your tremendous accomplishments and demonstrated commitment to internationalization and global learning!

LANGUAGE



**Faculty & Student
Collaboration**

Universidad Santa Paula — Costa Rica

Dr. Patricia Swasey Washington, associate professor and founder of the Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) Study Abroad in Costa Rica program, led students on the 4th program, from May 12th to 24th, 2019. The students participated in an array of clinical and academic activities, as well as some exciting cultural experiences. Clinic opportunities took place at the collaborating university, Universidad Santa Paula and the communities in and around San José. Students provided speech-language screenings and assisted with speech and language evaluations and therapy. Dr. Elizabeth Grillo, a CSD faculty member, visited the program for one therapy day and some cultural activities and meetings. One notable activity was a meeting hosted by Lcda. Rocío Valverde-Gallegos, rector of Universidad Santa Paula, in which CSD faculty discussed the proposed visit of USP students and faculty to WCU at the end of the 2019 fall semester. This upcoming visit is the culmination of several years of planning, preparation, and collaboration between Dr. Swasey Washington and USP personnel. Dr. Peter Loedel (Director) and Nora Maurer (Associate Director of Education Abroad) of the Center for International Programs at WCU, and Veronica Castro (Director of the international office at USP), contributed substantially to the successful evolution of this program.





Kigezi Healthcare Foundation (KIHEFO)

Dr. Geoffrey Anguyo
Director & Founder KIHEFO Uganda, East Africa
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WCU forms International Partnership with Kigezi Health Care Foundation (KIHEFO), Uganda

Via the leadership efforts of Dr. Chiwo Tinago (Department of Public Health) and the College of Health Sciences, Dr. Geoffrey Anguyu, Director and Founder of Kigezi Healthcare Foundation (KIHEFO) Uganda, visited the campus for one week in November to present his research, meet with students, and provide guest lectures in classes. Dr. Anguyu's work to provide integrated health services in the south of Uganda serves as a inspirational model of bottom up and ethical practices in health care provision for underserved communities. WCU is also fortunate to work with Dr. Anguyu on a student service volunteer program (now in its second year) as well as via research on on digitization of medical records, adolescent sexual health, food security and nutrition, and maternal and child health in Uganda.



Graduate Social Work Program in the Dominican Republic

The program, now run for the third time, provides graduate social work majors, with many from the Philadelphia Campus, an opportunity to study global social work in action. The program's goals are to increase educational opportunities for graduate social work students in the areas of human rights and international social work practice. Students traveled across the island while being emerged in educational activities related to personal identity, respecting cultural differences, developing intercultural understanding, and bridging cultural differences. They worked with a variety of NGO's and agencies including the Altagracia Project and Accion Callejera. Led by Adjunct Professor Kelly Smack, students were able to learn more about gender rights, LGBTQ rights and immigration policy, notably with Haiti.



C U B D R

Opportunities for the
Philly Campus

**2018-2019
International Student Data**

100%

OPT APPROVAL RATE

47

COUNTRIES

**from where our international students
came from last Fall**

6

NUMBER OF CONTINENTS

our students come from

132

TOTAL NUMBER OF

international students

2018-2019
Study Abroad Numbers

38

NUMBER OF COUNTRIES
our students traveled to

6

NUMBER OF CONTINENTS
our students traveled to

478

TOTAL NUMBER OF
international students travel



Stole Ceremony Spring 2019

The Center for International Programs (CIP) hosted its annual international student stole ceremony. The event was an opportunity to celebrate all our international graduating students. There were over thirty graduating students representing fourteen countries.









National Student Exchange Program

The National Student Exchange (NSE) program offers West Chester students the opportunity to attend another institution within the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Guam and U.S. Virgin Islands while paying in-state tuition and gaining academic credits. The NSE program offers opportunities at diverse university settings and provides access to a wide array of courses and programs. For more information please contact the NSE coordinator at: nse@wcupa.edu

ELS Partnership

West Chester University is pleased to partner with ELS Language Centers to provide intensive English instruction in preparation for matriculation to West Chester University. ELS is housed on the 4th floor of Mitchell Hall. Students from a wide range of countries around the world come to study English, experience campus life, and join with the Center for International Programs on programming (for example, our Summer Hershey Park trip). You will see many international students from ELS inside and outside Mitchell Hall, excited to be part of the West Chester University community. The ELS students, staff, and instructors are critical pieces of our internationalization strategy and provide a welcome boost to our international student profile. Stop by and say hello!



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