



**Bluefield State International Student Organization Holds First Meeting
of 2016-2017 Academic Year,
International Student Welcome Reception Follows**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 23, 2016**

The Bluefield State College International Student Organization (ISO) held its first meeting of the 2016-2017 academic year on Monday, August 22, 2016 in the Greek Lounge of the Othello Harris-Jefferson Student Center from 11:00-11:50 a.m.

The BSC ISO exists to promote awareness of various cultures among the international students as well as American students for the benefit of ourselves and the Bluefield State College community. As well, the ISO helps to assist all international students with their cultural transition, assimilation at the College, and to create a better social and cultural atmosphere for all international students.

The fifteen attendees thanked the prior year's officers for their service to the ISO.

Nominations were taken for the 2016-17 ISO officers, and the following students were then elected to lead the organization throughout the new year:

President: Jelena Jevtić (from Serbia)
Vice President: Maria Laura de Jesus Hernandez Larez (from Venezuela)
Treasurer: Marta Briales (from Spain)
Secretary: Shonté Cargill (from The Bahamas)

Members also agreed to participate in the upcoming SGA Student Organization Showcase on August 30, 2016.

Because of the nearing of this impending SGA event, members agreed to meet again next Monday, August 29th at 11:00 in the Greek Lounge of the Student Center.

A Welcome Reception for International Students followed at 4:00 p.m. in the Student Center cafeteria which was attended by approximately 55 students, staff, faculty, administrators, and guests.

Office of International Initiatives (OII) Coordinator, Professor Sudhakar Jamkhandi welcomed new and returning international students to Bluefield State and invited them to participate in numerous activities scheduled for the upcoming year. Professor Jamkhandi also reminded international students to come by his office (B-123) in order to update their Student and Exchange Visitor Information System registration (SEVIS), a program monitored by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), an agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS). SEVIS registration, stated Dr. Jamkhandi, must be done by each international student every semester.

BSC President Marsha Krotseng welcomed international students and others in attendance stating that their presence promoted diversity on the Bluefield campus and thus enhancing the value of BSC to the community.

Participants partook of the available food items provided by volunteers.

Attached photos are for publicity purposes only.

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