

Michael J. Farrell, Esq.
Chair



Paul. L. Hill, Ph.D.
Chancellor

West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission

1018 Kanawha Boulevard East, Suite 700 • Charleston, West Virginia 25301

(304) 558-2101 phone • (304) 558-1011 fax

www.wvhepc.edu

July 24, 2017

U.S. Department of State
2200 C Street NW
ECA/EC/D/AG, SA-44
Washington D.C. 20522-0505

To Whom It May Concern:

During the period 07/01/2016 – 06/30/2017, exchange visitors hosted at the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (WVHEPC) consortium member schools were engaged in activities ranging from studying and lecturing, to researching. Since we are still in the first two years of operating the J-1 exchange visitor program, our main focus has been on supporting the processes and promoting the opportunities internally. The WVHEPC Exchange Visitor Program Consortium was approved in September 2015. A full-day training workshop was provided to all of the RO/AROs during October 2015 and then a second full-day training was provided in October 2016. The approval of the WVHEPC J-1 program has helped accelerate our efforts to find acceptable foreign university partners and explore broad opportunities for exchange for our six member schools. We currently have 26 active and pending exchange agreements, an increase from the 19 agreements reported for 2015-16. This large increase in new exchange agreements is expected to result in more exchange visitors coming through our statewide J-1 program in the future. As detailed below, member schools hosted 46 exchange visitors during 2016-17, an increase from 40 in 2015-16. Most of the exchange visitors were students coming on DS-2019s issued by a third-party (Fulbright, CBYX, IREX, IIE, etc.). However, during 2016-17, seven (7) of the 46 total were hosted on a DS-2019 issued by the WVHEPC, a significant increase from 2015-16 which was our first year of operation. The following institutions hosted visiting students and scholars on DS-2019s issued by the WVHEPC: Concord University (3), Fairmont State University (1), Shepherd University (2), and West Liberty University (1).

Exchange Visitors (2016-17)

Bluefield State College

- Two (2) Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange students from Germany (Cultural Vistas)
- One (1) Fulbright Scholar in Residence hosted by Bluefield State University during the 2016-17 academic year, a professor from Kazan National Research Technological University, Kazan, Russia (KNRTU).

- Four (4) Fulbright Scholars in Residence at other US host institutions participated in the CIES/IIE-administered Outreach Lecture Fund (which was also supported with funding from the West Virginia Humanities Council) from Bolivia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Brazil.

Concord University

- Three (3) exchange students through a bilateral student exchange agreement with Kangwon National University (KNU), South Korea; DS-2019 forms issued through the WVHEPC J-1 program. Two Concord University students studied abroad as exchange students at KNU during 2016-17.
- Five (5) exchange students through the Global UGRAD-Pakistan program (IREX) – Students were enrolled as full-time students for one semester and made two presentations about their country and performed community service.
- Two (2) exchange students through the Tunisia UGRAD program (IREX) – Students were enrolled as full-time students for one academic year and did an internship as part of their program.

Fairmont State University

- The Department of Language and Literature continued to host one (1) Visiting Scholar from China. During fall semester 2016, the visiting scholar (Professor Han) taught a beginning Chinese language course. The students gave extremely positive feedback on this experience. Professor Han also visited beginning French classes to better understand how languages are taught in the American university system and discussed her observations with the French professor. The visiting scholars also continued to work with a professor in the English department for her research in teaching American literature. The Fairmont professor reported that this work was productive for all involved. Professor Han also coordinated a Chinese New Year celebration in the Department of Language and Literature. The visiting scholar's integration into faculty life was very successful, and local faculty benefitted from the visiting scholar setup as much as Professor Han did. Finally, Professor Han's son contributed to the internationalization of his elementary school here in town. The local newspaper ran a story on his leadership in Chinese New Year celebrations at the school, and on how much they enjoyed having him as a student. The provision in the J-1 visa to issue J-2 status to spouses and dependents is an excellent feature of the exchange visitor program. Link to newspaper story :

http://www.timeswv.com/news/chinese-lunar-new-year-shows-jayenne-students-different-culture/article_5ee6e2d0-e520-11e6-92a3-b3ebe380c236.html

Shepherd University

- Two (2) exchange students and scholars on DS-2019 forms issued through the WVHEPC J-1 program, including an exchange student for one academic year through a student exchange agreement with the Osaka University of Commerce, Osaka, Japan and a short-term scholar in Computer Science with an academic interest in Data Analytics whose home university is in Beijing. She was accompanied by her daughter.
- One (1) undergraduate students sponsored by IREX from the UGRAD Pakistan programs. Student was enrolled as a full-time student for one semester. Her academic focus was in elementary education and service learning.

West Liberty University

- One (1) Research Scholars, a faculty at Hanbat National University in South Korea, is working with the College Arts and Communication.
- West Liberty University hosted 24 exchange students during 2016-17 from several cultural exchange programs (Global Undergraduate Exchange Programs and CBYX Congress-Bundestag Exchange for Young Professionals) of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the United States Department of State, who attended WLU on DS-2019 issued by a third party (IREX, World Learning, Cultural Vistas and American Councils).

Agreements

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, we had 26 active and pending agreements with overseas institutions for purposes of facilitating student exchange. Institutions and agreements include:

Bluefield State College (BSC)

- Kostroma State University, Russia (renewed in spring 2016)
- National Ilan University, Taiwan (2015)
- William V. S. Tubman University (TU), Liberia (2015) - BSC will host Fulbright Scholar in Residence Prof. Jackson Tamba of TU who will teach electrical engineering technology courses. His son may accompany him and if he does, he will enroll in BSC's English for International Students program and upon successful passage, he plans to enroll in the college's civil engineering technology degree program. 5 BSC electrical engineering students may accompany Prof. Tamba to Tubman University in May 2018, with scholarships for airfares provided by Appalachian Power Company.
- Holy Cross College-Agartala, India (2015)
- Kazan National Research Technological University (KNRTU), Kazan, Russia (2015) - Dr. Mariya Kharina, professor at KNRTU spent AY 2016-17 at BSC as Fulbright Scholar in Residence; a summer 2018 study abroad at KNRTU is being planned. KNRTU students and faculty will provide home stays. Dr. Kharina is exploring a teaching opportunity with Holy Cross College, BSC's partner in India.
- Yunnan Vocational College of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering (YVCMEE), People's Republic of China (2016) - Two scholarships for year-round study available to BSC students to study at YVCMEE.
- Universidad Autonoma de Santa Ana (UNASA), El Salvador (2017) - Planning under way for 2-week study trip in WV in December 2017 by UNASA nursing students and faculty and 2-week study trip in May 2018 to UNASA by BSC environmental sciences students and faculty.

Concord University

- Kangwon National University, South Korea (2010) - KNU, established in 1947 in Chuncheon, Gangwon-do, South Korea, is one of ten flagship Korean national universities. KNU students stay at Concord for one academic year through this exchange agreement and Concord students visit KNU during the summer.

Fairmont State University

- Woosong University, South Korea (2012) - The nursing program has an active relationship with this university in South Korea. Students who come to Fairmont State through this program are degree-seeking students or visiting on a short-term non-credit basis for observation and shadowing of American nursing students. Continue to discuss how the J-1 program could open up even more possibilities. This is a very well-run and well-conceived program.
- The University of Calabria (UNICAL), Italy (2007).

Glennville State College

- University of Oviedo, Spain (April 2016). - This agreement will serve as a first step towards eventual exchange. For the moment, the focus is on virtual exchange, as evidenced by both parties committing formally to continue the work of a virtual exchange project started in 2014. Currently in the early stages of discussing with the University of Oviedo the next step in terms of agreements, which would involve specific language about student and faculty exchanges.

Shepherd University

- Osaka University of Commerce, Japan (2015-16) - Student exchange agreement. One Japanese student studied at Shepherd this past year. Shepherd hopes to reciprocate in either summer or fall 2018.
- University of Nicosia, Nicosia, Cyprus (2015-16) – Exploratory agreement.
- Anáhuac University, Puebla, Mexico (2016-17) – Exchange agreement. Two faculty members will travel to Anáhuac this summer to teach and prepare faculty-led trip in the coming academic year and to prepare to host an Anáhuac faculty member in fall. The hope is to have Mexican students come for a brief study tour in 2018.
- Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, Mali (2016-17). Exploratory agreement.
- Nanhua University, Dalin, Taiwan (2016-17). Exploratory agreement. Hosted two delegations in 2016-17 and will send one student for an academic year in 2017-18. Thereafter, we anticipate Shepherd hosting some Taiwanese students.
- University of the West of Scotland, Paisley, Scotland, UK (2016-17). Exchange agreement. Hosted brief visits by two faculty members and plans are underway for a study abroad trip in 2018. The hope is to have a scholar or student exchange visitor in the coming year.
- International University of Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire (Pending)
- University Gamal Abdel Nasser, Republic of Guinea (Pending)
- Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Medical Science and Engineering, Okayama University, Japan (Pending)
- School and Faculty of Medicine, Tsukuba University, Japan (Pending)
- College of Micronesia, Federated States of Micronesia (Pending)

West Liberty University

- Hanbat National University, South Korea (March 2016) - Through this agreement one of WLU's faculty has been organizing several study abroad trips in South Korea and is currently in South

Korea at Hanbat National University with several WLU students for a summer study abroad program. Discussions to host exchange students from Hanbat National University (HNU) at West Liberty University are currently taking place, and we are hoping to welcome the HNU students at West Liberty starting with the 2018/2019 academic year.

- Wyższa Szkoła Techniczna University (WSTU), Katowice, Poland (February 2015) – Through this agreement, every summer a WLU professor organizes a study abroad trip for our students. This Fall semester, WLU will be hosting a student from Wyższa Szkoła Techniczna University.
- University of Management and Technology (UMT), Pakistan (August 2015) - Through this MOU, one of the UMT students has joined WLU as a degree seeking student and has graduated from WLU this May 2017. West Liberty University will be discussing further initiatives with UMT, including faculty and student exchange programs.
- University of Wurzburg (UW), Germany (Pending). For the past three years, several students from West Virginia have been studying abroad at UW. WLU is looking to formalize the existing relationship between WLU and UW and create an agreement that will include faculty and student exchanges as well.
- Other agreements that are being pursued and expected to be signed in the future are with institutions in China in Taiwan. The Internationalization Committee at WLU and several WLU faculty members are working to develop multi-disciplinary institutional partnerships within their college of teaching.

Cross-Cultural Activities

The WVHEPC member schools are actively providing numerous cross-cultural activities for their students and scholars, including:

Bluefield State College (BSC)

- Welcome reception for international students attended by BSC staff, faculty, and administrators and community members (Friendship Families).
- BSC's Annual Humanities Challenge, which promotes the study of literatures (and cultures) from around the world attended by students of BSC and area high schools (WV-- Montcalm, Riverview; VA—Graham, Tazewell, Richlands, Narrows)
- First annual United Nations Day held on October 24, 2016 during which BSC's international student set up table top displays about their countries. Also featured KEI and WV HEPC displays about study abroad and informational literature from the Embassies of the Republics of Georgia and Slovenia.
- International students and scholars participate in Christmas Tree Lighting at The Greenbrier resort.
- Presentations by Fulbright Scholars in Residence (through Outreach Lecture Fund) to BSC students and faculty indicated in the section above.
- International Women's Day: Roses presented by international students to BSC's female staff, faculty, and administrators.

- Thirty (30) international students and scholars participated in a cultural/historical immersion trip to Washington, D.C. on April 2, 2017.
- BSC's Annual Agora-A Celebration of Creative Expression featured internationally renowned Spanish poet Margarita Merino, soprano Alexa Schlimmer, classical pianist Harold Brown and his protégé Margaret Anne Ridlehuber, and Canadian flutist Jesse Rehwald

Concord University

- New International Student Orientation program in August that featured sessions designed for students to get to know each other led by leaders from the International Club and Black Student Union, a session on maintaining F-1 status, a welcome from the VP of Student Affairs and the Director of Admissions. Following the sessions, students had lunch together and went shopping in Christiansburg VA.
- The International Club participated in all Homecoming activities and Catherina Santos, a student from Brazil and Levi Osawe, a student from Nigeria were crowned Homecoming Queen and King.
- International students had two opportunities to present their countries to local school groups. The students created poster displays, wore traditional attire and visited local elementary schools to share information about their country. International Students had two opportunities to present their countries to local school groups. The students created poster displays, wore traditional attire and visited local elementary schools to share information about their country.
- International student volunteers visit the day care center on campus to offer a program called "Trip Around the World" which features a particular country and has international students from that country present their country to the children through music and dance, pictures, games, flags and other activities.
- Exhibits hosted in the Marsh Library on campus gave international students an opportunity to learn more about West Virginia. The exhibits were titled "Outside the Mine: Life in a Coal Camp" and "Robert C. Byrd: Statesman, West Virginian".
- Students had the opportunity to hear two outstanding speakers this year. American poet, writer, commentator, activist, and educator, Nikki Giovanni and Pulitzer prize winning columnist, Leonard Pitts.
- Offer a vibrant host family program on campus for students who want to visit an American home and enjoy time with an American family.
- Annual International Banquet features food prepared by international students followed by performances from the countries represented on campus. Guests include students, faculty and staff, host families and community members.

Fairmont State University (FSU)

- Screening of film Timbuktu with Q&A and discussion. Deals with radical terrorist invasion of northern Mali, a fictionalized account from the point of view of villagers, directed by Abderrahmane Sissoko.
- Taste of the World celebration and international food sampling. (flyer image attached)
- International Flag Raising, at the flagpoles near the university entrance. Students, faculty and staff raise flags for their respective countries while we play the corresponding national anthems.

Glennville State College (GSC)

- GSC was awarded the 2017 Capacity Building Grants for U.S. Undergraduate Study Abroad by the U.S. Department of State and Partners of the Americas – a \$42,000 grant to increase and diversify participation in study abroad on their campuses. GSC was among 11 institutions selected for the grant nationally and the only college or university in West Virginia to receive the grant during this round. See press release at: <http://www.glennville.edu/news/?p=24466>. Note that Shepherd University was awarded this grant the previous year.
- The Office of International Programs hosted a speaker series titled: Preparing for the Global Workplace: Straight Talk from Early-to-Mid-Career Professionals. Two speakers Skyped in and one came to campus during Fall 2016.
- A GSC Marketing class decided to plan an international fair event during November as part of International Education Week. The Office of International Programs collaborated with the class in order to host this event, which included food and poster presentations for eight different countries.
- Glennville is actively promoting a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) program that is designed to internationalize the university curriculum. The following articles highlight the COIL-related activities at Glennville:
 - GSC Instructor Travels to Mexico for COIL Class - <http://www.glennville.edu/news/?p=23560>
 - Online International Learning Connects West Virginia and Hispanic Cultures - <http://www.glennville.edu/news/?p=22623>
 - Glennville State College Receives Internationalization Technology Award - <http://www.glennville.edu/news/?p=17556>
 - Report produced in April 2016 by the American Council on Education (ACE) about GSC's ACE-SUNY COIL Internationalization Through Technology Award: Internationalization in Action - <https://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/Internationalization-in-Action-Special-Edition-Connecting-Classrooms-Using-Online-Technology-to-Deliver-Global-Learning.aspx>
 - ACE Blog (May 2016) about Glennville State's internationalization efforts: Bringing Global Learning to West Virginia - <https://higheredtoday.org/2016/05/16/bringing-global-learning-to-west-virginia/>

Shepherd University

- Week of August 14: Arrival, welcome and orientation. Includes formal orientation, participation in Emerging Leaders in Service, tour of Shepherdstown, and social events sponsored by the Good Shepherd House and Global Connectors.
- August 23-24: Two noon-time receptions for new international students and students returning from summer study abroad trips. The goal was to connect these "internationally-minded" students.

- September 13, October 11, November 15, December 13, April 18, and May 23: “Speak” presentations of storytelling by national and international storytellers spanning broadly many cultures and cultural traditions.
- September 26 and 30, October 17, November 14, January 30, February 8, March 23 and 29, April 10 and 17, and April 24: Lectures sponsored by the Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education. Wide range of topics, but with a common connection to West Virginia and Appalachia.
- September 25-October 2: Appalachian Heritage Week with speakers, performances, reading, and lectures. Offered international students insight into the richness of the Appalachia culture.
- October 6: Study Abroad Fair to encourage study abroad and exchange.
- October 9: Tailgate at a home soccer game. Introduced international students to the “tailgate culture” while cheering on the Rams.
- November 2: International Student Coffees and Sweets in the Student Center.
- November 23 and 24: Thanksgiving meals at local churches for international students.
- January 6-8: New student arrival, welcome and orientation with weekend shopping, touring, and helping get settled in. Meals at local families’ homes.
- January 16: Various activities and student-centered programs remembering and celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr.
- February 25: “Sock Hop” to support anti-human trafficking work in the Panhandle and to benefit victims of trafficking.
- April 4: Recognition ceremony for international students and scholars being inducted in Phi Beta Delta.
- April 7: Lunch with Dr. Susumu Nishimura, famous Japanese cancer research scientist. Exchange student, Yoshi, was the special focus on the lunch.
- April 20: Recognition ceremony for graduating international students and departing exchange students.
- April 24: Produce drop to help charity, sponsored by Rotary International.
- May 7: Commencement
- In addition, students were encouraged to attend school athletic events (we have six international student athletes), to join at least one student organization, to partake in as many of the local town’s activities as possible, and to actively participate in class discussions that offer them a chance to inform about their countries. Several of the students were on the Model UN team, two were in Rotaract (college-age Rotary), many were in the Pan-African Student Union and International Student Union, and two pledged into service fraternities.

West Liberty University

- August 26th, International Student Welcome Picnic. This networking picnic is open to all members of the campus who have an interest in our international students. It is the official welcome to our new international students and everyone returning.
- September 26th, Culture Fair is an annual fair where all of our international students are encouraged to make a display about their country and dress in traditional clothes (if available). The event helps the students connect with the campus and promotes cultural awareness. This past

year we had 12 countries represented and the event was additionally attended by fourth and fifth grade students from Wheeling Country Day school.

- November 1st, It's International Tea Time an annual event that opens the International month programming. We offer teas from around the world along with a selection of international desserts. Our international students volunteer to serve the food and teas.
- November, International Month is our biggest event of the year. We have 5-6 speakers or activities every week for a month. Our speakers include guest speakers, our international students and faculty, as well as our U.S. students and faculty who have traveled abroad. This past year we had 24 talks or activities given by our international students, faculty or guests from the community. The type of activities organized can be seen in the posters attached.
- November: Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by WLU President for all international students at WLU.
- December 6th, Holiday International Party with gift exchange. During this end of fall semester party, our international students are welcome to invite their roommates, close friends and host families. It is a formal farewell to our one semester students and an introduction to some of our holiday season traditions like a gift exchange.
- February 14th, For Valentine's Day our international club hosts a Language of Love activity where they will write you a Valentines card in a different language. It is a lot of fun and well attended by the campus community.
- April 10th: The International Food Festival is probably our most popular event of the year. We had students from 12 countries cook and serve some of their traditional dishes to the West Liberty community. Over 150 people have attended the event.
- May 6th: End of Semester Picnic and Celebratory Get Together, an event organized for all international students at WLU, their families and friends.
- In addition to these campus events, the International Student Office at WLU has organized throughout the academic year, different educational and fun events that provide students with opportunities to learn more about the culture in the area, make friends and network, travel and explore more of the USA. Some of the events were: Halloween in the community, Christmas with host families, learn popular sports (football, baseball etc), explore the local artistic life, attend theater plays and Broadway shows at the Wheeling Capitol Theater or in Pittsburgh, Kayaking, biking, shopping Trips, trips to Mosques, museums or other destinations of interest etc Our international students have also visited and gave presentations at Middle Creek elementary school, West Liberty elementary school, Wheeling Country Day elementary school, and Brooke high school. Some of our international students representing Islamic, Christian, Hindu, and atheistic traditions, also attended services at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, a Buddhist meditation temple in Pittsburgh, and the Rodef Shalom congregation in Pittsburgh. After each service, the students visited with the congregations while enjoying meals or snacks.

Orientation

All WVHEPC member schools hold an orientation for exchange visitors. All new exchange visitors who arrive during a given month are required to attend. During the orientation exchange visitors are informed about Department of State regulations they are expected to follow, resources available at the

University, life and customs in the United States, community resources, etc. Attendance is taken to verify all exchange visitors participate.

Dr. Erin Hippolyte, ARO at FSU, gave the following account of the orientation that was provided to a J-1 Visiting Scholar from China:

“The Department of Language and Literature provided the social context for welcoming our visiting scholar. Many of the faculty scheduled outings with Professor Han and her son. She also interacted with faculty by being interested in their research and teaching, and attending their classes. I think that the academic department can play a large role in orienting and supporting a visiting scholar into life in the United States.”

Exchange Visitor Handbook

In addition, each exchange visitor is given the “Exchange Visitor Handbook.” It provides much of the same information given at orientation and hence, serves as an additional orientation/resource. The handbook also satisfies the pre-arrival information requirement set forth in the regulations. The handbook is available online at <http://www.globalwv.org/evp/>.

Insurance Coverage

The WVHEPC certifies that it will comply with the insurance coverage requirements for exchange visitors including notifying potential exchange visitors of the requirement before their arrival on campus. In addition, exchange visitors are instructed again about this requirement upon arrival and are required to supply us with proof that they have the proper insurance.

Bluefield State College is using an online tool at <http://www.insubuy.com/international-student-medical-insurance/?affiliateid=overture> to assist its international students and scholars with purchasing insurance.

Dr. Erin Hippolyte, ARO at FSU, gave the following account of how insurance was handled for their J-1 Visiting Scholar from China: “Professor Han selected insurance from a list provided to her by the Chinese Scholarship Council. I was able to review the coverage and determine that it met the requirements that our J-1 Consortium has established.”

Responsible Officers

The WVHEPC has seven (7) Responsible or Alternate Responsible Officers that assist with the administration of our J-1 Exchange Visitor Program.

Challenges

Bluefield State College (BSC)

- Identifying English-speaking faculty from partner institutions in non-English speaking countries who can spend up to an entire academic year at BSC.
- Foreign partner institutions have the same challenge faced by US institutions, namely, releasing full-time faculty to go abroad for scholarly activities and finding substitute (adjunct) faculty who will teach their courses in their absence. Reciprocal exchanges will be a rare occurrence.
- Appropriate housing for exchange scholars along with the cost of such housing (i.e., who will cover rental costs?)
- How can substitute (adjunct) faculty salaries be paid/justified and from what funding source?

Concord University

- “We really haven’t had issues as we’ve implemented the program. I think having a well-established F-1 program has helped.”

Fairmont State University

- “The biggest challenge has been to spread the word around campus that we now have the capacity to work with visiting scholars and students, and to assure that inquiries are directed through the ARO first, so that the timeline and requirements are understood from the beginning. Sometimes interested parties weigh their decisions based on anecdotal information, and they end up starting the process too late for the intended start date or rejecting an idea that would have actually been possible.”

Glennville State College

- “Finding students and faculty who wish to travel to Glennville, and—by extension—finding the necessary funds needed to support them. “

Shepherd University

- Throughout fall 2016 Shepherd University worked very hard to provide temporary academic sanctuary for a threatened scholar in the aftermath of the failed coup attempt in Turkey. He had lost his faculty position, his bank accounts were seized, and his family forced to move out of their apartment into the small living space of his mother. Daily he faced the prospect of arrest, but fortunately that did not occur, which indicated his case was probably circumstantial.
- He was a graduate of WVU and when this occurred he reached back to his friends in West Virginia. With the support of Congressman Mooney’s office, Shepherd arranged for a term visiting professor offer and prepared forms DS-2019 for him, his wife, and son. As soon as he received the forms, he immediately applied for passports and was successful. Unfortunately, the US Consulate then denied the visa. We gathered statements and letters of support and canceled the DS-2019 forms for his wife and son, thinking that would overcome any potential presumption

of immigration. Unfortunately, the Consulate denied the application again. The scholar noted the consular officer did not look at the new documents or support letters.

- We raise this issue to underscore two challenges. The first addresses the difficulty in implementing an exchange program that truly supports democratic freedoms. The second addresses the difficulty in overturning a consular officer's decision, which can be quite arbitrary. This scholar would have been cleared to depart Turkey, which in effect indicates there were no threats to security or criminal charges.
- It was a sad day for many of us who had worked very hard to help a "colleague" in time of need. And it was a sad day for the United States of America.

Future Plans

Bluefield State College (BSC)

- Existing and future Agreements: Design study abroad curricula in different fields for students of partner institutions, possibly after approval to issue F-1 visas to Visiting International Students is authorized by SEVP or by using the J-1 visa for customized short-term study at BSC.
- Custom design study abroad for BSC students at existing partner institutions (e.g., Dr. Mariya Kharina and BSC faculty have designed a study abroad program experience for BSC students at KNRTU in summer 2018)
- New Agreements: Possibly engage in institutional partnerships with Bolivian Catholic University and University of Dar E Salaam. Dr. Ruben Mamani-Paco of the former and Dr. Colman Msoka of the latter have shared with their leadership BSC's interest in partnering with them to promote student and faculty exchanges, collaborative research, and information exchange.
- Continue hosting Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange participants from Germany (Cultural Vistas), Fulbright Scholar in Residence, and third party Exchange scholars/professors (CIES/IIE Outreach Lecture Fund).
- Anticipate grant application submission by October 2017 to CIES to host Giorgi Bregadze as Fulbright Scholar in Residence at BSC in 2018-19 to teach and design sustainable tourism activities/strategies.
- Approved for 2017-18 at BSC: Fulbright Scholar in Residence Dr. Jackson Tamba of William V S Tubman University. Will teach environmental science.
- BSC anticipates issuing J-1 visas to faculty from partner institutions to teach at BSC for one or two semesters
- BSC anticipates issuing J-1 visas to partner institutions' students to enroll in the English for International Students program. They will also pay tuition at the instate rate when enrolled in this specific program.

Concord University

- In addition to the Global UGRAD-Pakistan and Tunisia UGRAD programs that we currently host, we've applied to host students from Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange participants from Germany for the upcoming year.
- We've started a short-term ESL program during the second summer term. This year we will host two high school students from Vietnam. We hope to expand this to include students from other countries in the future.
- Other plans include expanding the number of exchange programs available and increasing the number of domestic students who participate in a study abroad program.

Fairmont State University (FSU)

- A reorganization of the duties of our International Office will be a great chance to highlight our capacities and decentralize some of the functions away from the International Student Services in order to get more people involved and invested in our goals to internationalize the campus.
- We intend to use the ideas the ARO has been learning about in COIL training to maintain our J-1 contacts with online collaboration and to seek out new relationships with scholars who could potentially visit.

Glennville State College

- With the implementation of the U.S. State Department capacity building grant for study abroad, we are hoping to begin to send more students out and to therefore establish relationships with more and new international partner institutions (specifically in Australia, Thailand and the United Kingdom).
- We will also continue to improve and to expand our COIL program. Our current COIL partners are in Malaysia, Mexico and Spain. We are working with all three to discuss bringing COIL Visiting Fellows to campus/West Virginia.
- We have also applied for a WVHEPC Diversity Grant, which will include internationalization as a feature of expanding diversity efforts on campus. If awarded, this grant would allow for more co-curricular activities that would support international programs and international student recruitment.

Shepherd University

- Significant progress has occurred over this reporting period that has laid a strong foundation for growing the J-1 program. Of specific note are the establishment of the full-time Study Abroad Office and Intensive English Language Program and the signing of institutional agreements for exchange and collaboration.
- The Study Abroad Office is working with Academic Affairs to incorporate responsibility for Fulbright and other prestigious academic programs into its portfolio. The motivation behind this is to market broadly these opportunities to students and encourage applications.

U.S. Department of State

July 24, 2017

Page -14-

West Liberty University

- 2016-2017 academic year was a more hands-on experience for WLU in the J-1 program, as West Liberty University welcomed its first J-1 scholar on campus and we are looking forward to further building the program and to welcoming more J-1 visiting scholars in the years to come.

The J-1 Exchange Visitor Program continues to be very important to our continued statewide internationalization efforts. In summary, all aspects of the WVHEPC J-1 Exchange Visitor Program Consortium are operating effectively. If further information is necessary, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clark Egnor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Clark" and last name "Egnor" clearly distinguishable.

Dr. Clark Egnor, Responsible Officer

P-1-19841

West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission