

Diplomacy Lab Application

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“The mission of Bluefield State University (BSU), a historically black institution, is to prepare students for diverse professions, informed citizenship, community involvement, and public service in an ever-changing global society by providing an affordable, accessible opportunity for public higher education through certificate, associate, bachelor, and master degree programs.

The institution's four Schools—Business; Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; and, Nursing and Allied Health enroll students from around the world and welcome the opportunities to incorporate visiting international scholars' research into their courses.

This task has been the responsibility of BSU's Office of International Initiatives whose mandates include international recruitment, integration, and retention and internationalization of the curriculum.

Our internationalization of the curriculum initiatives has involved the US Department of State for almost two decades. Beginning in 1997, we implemented Community Connections (administration of which was handed over to USAID in 2008); the Outreach Lecture Fund since 2007; the Scholar in Residence Program in 2009, 2016, and 2017; the Fulbright African Undergraduate Program; and, since 2007, the FLTA program to promote the study of critical languages as well as the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program administered by Cultural Vistas for the US Department of State. The US Department of State has recognized Bluefield State as a Fulbright Institutional Leader in 2019, 2020, and 2021.

The real time research projects proffered by the Diplomacy Lab will complement existing internationalization activities at Bluefield State. Given our professions-driven and professions-oriented curricula, the Diplomacy Lab will complement the learning curve of the students. This experience will allow for the attainment of a world perspective that will add finesse to our graduates' awareness of the relevance of their disciplines and the need for their disciplines globally.

The DipLab experience will help our graduates catapult into spheres of influence they never thought possible. Slowly but surely a new culture of global awareness and global participation will evolve. Our students will be among the state's most international minded, a temperament which will be ingrained and viewed as a most natural part of the DNA of West Virginians.

The Diplomacy Lab experience will elevate the self-esteem of our students; it will allow them to become global citizens; it will allow them to be global-minded; it will allow them to see beyond the mountains; it will allow them to truly understand how they might contribute to world peace, world trade, world diplomacy, and become world citizens whose loyalty to US interests will be synonymous with global citizenship. The Diplomacy Lab experience will be the enabler, the molder of our graduates' perspectives about the health of humankind and their habitats.

Bluefield State has always been at the forefront of international education in West Virginia, the state that has shared with the world of diplomacy such illustrious sons as Cyrus Vance, who served as President Carter's Secretary of State, and more recently, John C. Law, former Charge d'affaires in The Philippines and currently Dean of the School of Languages, Foreign Service Institute, who is also on the Advisory Committee of our newly approved BA in International Studies.

Bluefield State University is privileged to incorporate the Diplomacy Lab into its curriculum, thereby strengthening its ties with the US Department of State.