

Brookdale one of a handful of colleges selected for Brazil partnership

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The Institute of International Education has announced that Brookdale Community College is among the 18 U.S. colleges and universities selected for the 2012 Brazil initiative of IIE's International Academic Partnership Program (IAPP).

Over the next year, IIE will lead a series of training activities to help each institution implement and sustain partnerships with institutions in Brazil, culminating with a study tour to Brazil in spring 2012 to meet with potential partner campuses.

Brazil has recently gained significant international attention in the global higher education community, due in no small part to the tremendous growth of the higher education sector and the Government's substantial support of higher education as a priority for national development. Earlier this year, President Dilma Rousseff committed to sending 75,000 Brazilian students abroad over the next four years through its Science Without Borders Program, a scholarship program for Brazilian students focusing on the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) to study at the world's best universities. President Rousseff has also set a goal for the private sector to contribute an additional 25,000 fellowships to the program.

"At a time when Brazil's economy is expanding rapidly, and Brazil and the United States are forging unprecedented ties in trade, energy and scientific development, we look to higher education as another area where our two countries should seek much stronger cooperation," said IIE's President and CEO Allan E. Goodman.

Continued on page 36

BCC students

Continued from page 25

on successful applications that outlined their strong interest in building ties with institutions in Brazil and their need for the assistance that IAPP provides. The program provides strategic guidance on building effective and sustainable partnerships with the expectation that outcomes will vary from institution to institution. Partnership activities may include joint programs, student exchanges or faculty linkages for collaborative research and teaching.

Each institution has made a commitment to form a campus-wide task force to work on prospective partnerships, conduct an institution-wide inventory of activities pertaining to Brazil and develop a strategic plan focused on partnership with Brazil. Each school will also work with a mentor from the IAPP Brazil Advisory Board members who can offer high-level input on its partnership strategy.

“Higher education is an important area of collaboration

between the United States and Brazil because of its impact on the critical issues that we face today and leaders of tomorrow,” said IIE President Allan E. Goodman. “The partnership program will strengthen the educational ties between Brazil and the United States, and pave the way for students from both countries to gain critical global competencies.”

IIE’s Center for International Partnerships in Higher Education manages the International Academic Partnership Program, which was established in 2009 with an initial two-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). In awarding the grant, FIPSE intended to help jumpstart an academic partnership program in higher education between the U.S. and other countries that would grow into a self-sustaining program.

The launch of the 2012 IAPP Brazil initiative represents the

partnership program’s expansion into a new region. Since 2009, two cohorts of U.S. institutions each have focused on building partnerships with institutions in India, and one on linkages with China. IAPP Brazil will continue to build on the success of previous years, harnessing lessons learned, and leveraging IIE’s expertise in international higher education.

In academic year 2009/10,

more than 8,700 Brazilian students were studying in the United States, making Brazil the fourteenth leading place of origin for international students in the United States, according to the Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange, published annually by IIE with support from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Open Doors 2010 reports that

Brazil hosted over 2,700 U.S. study abroad students in 2008/09, a 2% increase from the previous year. While Brazil sends the most students from Latin America to the U.S. after Mexico, it ranks sixth as a destination U.S. students studying abroad in Latin America.