

Introductory Comments for Peter Wollitzer Advocacy Award 2010

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I am here to set the stage for the announcement of the Peter A. Wollitzer Advocacy Award. It is an honor and privilege to do so, as I knew Peter and admired him greatly.

The Peter A. Wollitzer Award is to honor a Forum member who has been remarkably effective in influencing educational institutions to understand and support education abroad. We all need heroes. We all need role models. The Forum set up this award to identify heroes and role models amongst The Forum membership.

Who was Peter Wollitzer? He was a person who was remarkably effective in influencing educational institutions to understand and support education abroad. He worked for 20 years at the University of California system wide study abroad office. He also worked at the University of California Berkeley, and at IES in Chicago.

Let me give you an example of Peter's ability to conceptualize and develop a message to bring about positive institutional change for education abroad.

I heard him give a presentation at a conference back in the 1980's during the cold war when he spoke about the three generations of study abroad. The first generation was right after World War II when the Fulbright program was established to promote better international understanding amongst nations in order to prevent another world war. Study abroad was to advance the prospects for world peace.

The second generation of study abroad was the 1960's, when people realized if you want to learn French, it might be best to go to France to study. If you want to understand Renaissance art and architecture, go to Italy. Study abroad was all about studying on location to increase your understanding and knowledge of specific subject matter.

The third generation of study abroad that Peter described was one in which Americans realized we do not have all the answers, and that by partnering with institutions abroad we have a better chance of solving challenges that face the globe.

With this conception model Peter was able to bring about change in how the University of California managed education abroad, increasing collaboration with institutions in what was then the Soviet Union and elsewhere around the globe in a bilateral way.

I have used his conceptual model to make changes at institutions where I have worked.

Peter was also the first chair of The Forum Council, and played a key role in shaping the structure and initial work of the Council. He did so while battling brain cancer. He was an outstanding person, and The Forum established this award in his honor.

I would like to mention others who have received the Peter A. Wollitzer Advocacy Award. They include Michael Paige, who has had a distinguished career at the University of Minnesota, and David Larsen from Arcadia University whom I ask to stand and be recognized.

I would like to recognize the other members of the selection committee, and ask them to stand if they are here today. They are Helena Kauffman of Carleton College, Wedigo de Vivanco of Freie Universitaet Berlin, Mary Anne Grant of ISEP and also representing The Forum Board, and Mark Ferguson of Wayne State University.

Now I ask that Rob Castle come to the stage to make the award presentation.