



FORUM NEWS

SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

Survey Results: The Global Economic Crisis and Education Abroad

The results of the Forum's recent survey of its members on the impact of the global economic crisis on education abroad provide the most comprehensive and up-to-date data on this important issue. 44% of Forum member institutions responded to the survey, conducted between August 24 – September 4, 2009. The survey asked members to assess the impact of the economic crisis on enrollment in education abroad programs, on budgeting for education abroad, and on students' choice of education abroad programs. Survey results are available on the Forum web site at:

<http://www.forumea.org/documents/ForumEducationAbroadeconsurvey9-09.pdf>

Standards of Good Practice Workshops Offered in Pacific Northwest

Forum President and CEO Brian Whalen recently conducted two workshops on the Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad at Pacific Lutheran University and Seattle University. The workshop at Pacific Lutheran was conducted for their education abroad staff and faculty leaders; participants in the workshop hosted by Seattle University included administrators and faculty from across Seattle University, along with colleagues from Gonzaga University, Platform 3000, School for International Training (SIT), University of Puget Sound, and the University of Washington. Robin Craggs, Director of Education Abroad at Seattle University, commented that "faculty members and administrators have said how much they appreciated the opportunity to consider the Standards for their own work and the workshop deepened their commitment to good practice." Member institutions interested in hosting a Standards workshop on their campus or offices are encouraged to contact the Forum.

Incident Database Pilot Project Update

The pilot project for the Forum's Education Abroad Incident database has 'gone live,' with participants reporting incidents into the Forum's secure online database. Reports of incidents are anonymous and not associated with particular programs. The goal of the pilot project is to collect accurate information on the number and range of incidents that occur on education abroad programs to help inform health, safety and security policies and practices. Results of the pilot project will be presented and discussed at the Standards of Good Practice Institute, "Beyond the Basics of Health, Safety and Security," to be held on March 24, 2010 in conjunction with the Forum Annual Conference. Registration for both the Institute and the Conference opens October 15th. For more information on the incident database pilot project, please visit: <http://www.forumea.org/research-data.cfm>

New Board Member Welcomed

The Forum Board of Directors is pleased to announce that at its July meeting it elected Dr. Zinta Konrad to the Board. Dr. Konrad is Director of International Education at College of DuPage where her responsibilities involve all phases of international education. She earned a Ph. D. in African Languages and Literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her book, *Ewe Comic Heroes: Trickster Tales in Togo*, published by Garland Press in 1994, is based on her collection and analysis of 400 oral narrative performances among the Ewe people in Togo, West Africa. She earned a master's degree in French from Indiana University-Bloomington, which led to training Peace Corps volunteers at the French language center in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Dr. Konrad lived and taught in East and West Africa, including Tanzania, Togo, Cameroon, and Zimbabwe. She is an experienced grant reviewer for a number of funding organizations and is a frequent presenter at national conferences and workshops on a variety of subjects concerning international education and study abroad at the community college level. She is an avid student of languages, fluent in Latvian, French, and English, conversant in Spanish, and dabbler in German, Russian, Swahili, and Ewe.

Mary Dwyer, Chair of the Board, stated, "I and my Board colleagues are extremely pleased that Zinta has joined the Forum Board of Directors. She has a distinguished record in education abroad, teaching, research and higher education administration, and is someone with vast experience in the community college sector. We look forward to welcoming her to the Board at our next meeting."

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