



Forum a Partner in Project that Will Assess Education Abroad Capacity

The Forum on Education Abroad announces its participation in a project to assess education abroad capacity in overseas programs and host institutions. The project is being conducted in cooperation with the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), with financial support provided by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA).

The purpose of the project is to assess the capacity for hosting U.S. students in non-traditional education abroad locations, and make recommendations for the improvement of programs to meet expanding need. For the initial pilot study, Brazil, Morocco and Senegal have been selected.

According to Forum President and CEO Brian Whalen, "the Forum will play a key role by contributing its expertise in the area of standards of good practice and quality improvement for education abroad." The Forum's Quality Improvement Program (QUIP) provides a tool for the comprehensive assessment and improvement of education abroad programs by using the *Standards* as its basis. Whalen says that "institutions and programs will be oriented to the *Standards* and trained in QUIP through workshops and webinars, and I expect that a number of institutions and programs will participate in full QUIP reviews as part of the project."

The first goal of the project is to compile as complete a list as possible of education abroad programs in Brazil, Morocco and Senegal. Information about all types of programs is desired: existing programs, those in the planning phase, programs based at higher education institutions in these countries, programs offered by local independent organizations, and programs offered by U.S.-based providers.

If your institution or organization sponsors an education abroad program in one of these countries, please send the name of the program, your institution/organization, and contact information to Rachel Marcus at rmarcus@iie.org. The deadline for receiving information is January 9, 2009. After all information is compiled, more details about how to participate in the project will be made available.

Happy Holidays from the Forum

The Forum wishes all of its members, colleagues and friends the happiest of holidays. Thank you to all of the many people who contributed to and supported the Forum in 2008. Please note that the Forum offices will be closed beginning on December 25 and will re-open on January 5, 2009.

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