

## Standards Summit a Success

Thirty-two participants in the Standards Pilot Project met at the Forum offices in Carlisle, PA last week for a "Standards Summit." They included representatives from institutions participating in the Pilot, peer reviewers who conducted site reviews, members of the Board's Standard's Task Force, and representatives from the Standards Committee.

At a welcome dinner on Wednesday, Mary Dwyer, Chair of the Forum Board of Directors, recognized their "groundbreaking work that will shape the future of education abroad." The next morning, Kathy Sideli, Chair of the Board's Standards Task Force, reviewed the history of developing and disseminating the Standards and highlighted the Forum's designation as the Standards Development Organization (SDO) for education abroad in 2004.



On Thursday morning, the group shared lessons they learned from participating in the Pilot, making suggestions for how to improve the self-study and peer review processes. Afternoon sessions focused on revisions to the Standards themselves. On Friday, participants planned sessions for the Forum conference in Austin, Texas about the Standards Pilot Project.

"The summit assembled a stellar group of colleagues that engaged in outstanding work on behalf of the field," said Katharine Krebs, Director of International Education at Binghamton University. "I was proud to be a part of it."

For Adrian Thomas, Director of the Quality Support Unit at the University of Limerick in Ireland, the Summit "provided the opportunity to meet and discuss the self-study and review processes with many of the other institutions that participated in the project, and now we have an excellent system for moving to the next stage of quality assurance in education abroad."

"I was energized by the impressive contributions of all who attended the Summit," said President and CEO Brian Whalen. "This bodes extremely well for launching QUIP next year."

## Call for Nominations

Each year, in honor of the first chair of the Advisory Council, Peter Wollitzer, the Forum recognizes a member who has been remarkably effective in influencing educational institutions to understand and support education abroad through the dissemination of the Forum's goals: standards of good practice, data collection and research, curricular development and academic design, and assessment. The award will be presented at the Forum conference in March, 2007.

Nominations for the Peter A. Wollitzer Award must be received by e-mail to [info@forumea.org](mailto:info@forumea.org) by 5pm on January 5, 2007. To learn more about the criteria and selection process, visit:

<http://www.forumea.org/wollitzeraward.htm>

### REGISTER NOW!

If you've been waiting to register for the Forum conference, don't wait any longer. **The early bird discounts ends on December 31.** It's easy to register online at:

<http://www.forumea.org/conference-regform.cfm>

### LET THE DISCUSSION BEGIN!

We know that Forum members have a lot to say — and we want to hear it. Join in the discussion on our website:

<http://www.forumea.org/forumblog.html>

Today's topic: the Study Abroad Act of 2006.

### FORUM RECEIVES PERMANENT CHARITABLE STATUS

The Forum has been informed by the Internal Revenue Service that it has received permanent status as a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. "This marks an important point in the Forum's history," says Mary Dwyer. "It has become increasingly difficult for organizations to be granted this status. The Forum receiving this designation is testimony both to its continued success and its prospects for future achievements."

To recognize our permanent status, please consider making a charitable donation to the Forum. The end of the year is the perfect time!