

Forum To Offer Participation in Outcomes Assessment Study

Through a special collaboration with the International Beliefs and Values Institute (IBAVI) and the Office of International Programs (OIP) of James Madison University, selected Forum member institutions will be able to participate in a project involving a global network of universities that are assessing the processes and outcomes of international learning. Applications to participate in this first Forum-sponsored research project will be available in September, 2006.

The project uses an instrument developed by Dr. Craig Shealy, (Executive Director, IBAVI), the Beliefs, Events, and Values Inventory (BEVI). According to Shealy, the BEVI is "...designed to assess a number of relevant processes and constructs including (but not limited to): basic openness; receptivity to different cultures, religions, and social practices; the tendency (or not) to stereotype in particular ways; self and emotional awareness; and preferred but implicit strategies for making sense of why 'other' people and cultures 'do what they do'." The web-based BEVI may also be used flexibly with other assessment measures and approaches. (For more information about the BEVI:

<http://www.jmu.edu/ibavi>)

This Forum-sponsored project will help refine and validate the BEVI, now in the pilot phase, for broader use in the future. Anticipated beginning of the study is spring, 2007, with the second phase anticipated to begin in fall, 2007. After the pilot period, institutions will be able to use BEVI results for a variety of assessment goals: to comply with accreditation requirements (e.g., substantive assessment), evaluate specific international learning experiences (e.g., study abroad, service learning, etc.), and understand better who learns what and why, and under what circumstances.

Forum members will receive more detailed information in September.

Registration for Austin Conference Opens October 1st!

Registration for the Third Forum Conference in Austin, Texas (March 1-3, 2007) opens October 1, 2006. The Conference Hotel is the Austin Marriott at the Capitol and the University of Texas at Austin is the Conference Host. "We are very excited to serve as the host for the conference, which undoubtedly will be the best Forum conference yet," says Jerry Wilcox, Director of the International Office at UT. "Austin is a fabulous city with an exciting nightlife and unique restaurants that contribute to its vibrant reputation. Y'all come down to see us."



The Conference will include the distinctive interactive sessions that have become a hallmark of the Forum conference, as well as other highly-rated sessions such as the Undergraduate Research Awards presentations. This year's conference theme is "Standards in a Diverse World: The Future of Education Abroad," and the results of the Forum's Standards Pilot, which has involved the application of the standards at 18 different institutions, will be reported. In addition, exhibits will debut for the first time at a Forum Conference.

Forum Partners with IIE Passport

Study abroad advisors visiting the IIEPassport website (<http://info.iiepassport.org/advocacy/>) will find the Forum is providing pertinent information in the “Advisor Toolkit and Resources” section of IIEPassport’s Advocacy Center. The Forum is highlighting information from some of its current projects as a way of alerting study abroad advisors of the essential resources being developed. “We are extremely pleased that the Forum is featuring these resources on our website... we know that they will be of real interest and value to the study abroad advisors who visit the site,” says Kim Gradel, Product Manager for the IIEPassport Study Abroad Directories. Currently, the IIEPassport site contains excerpts from the Forum’s Guide to the Assessment of Outcomes in Education Abroad, which will be published in spring, 2007.

The Forum on Education Abroad

PO Box 1773, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA 17013

Tel: 717-245-1031

Fax: 717-245-1677

E-mail: info@forumea.org