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## ABSTRACT

Rend Lake College (RLC), in Ina, Illinois, has taken an integrated approach to internationalizing its college community by utilizing existing structures and funding to create six programs designed to foster global awareness and understanding. The first program offers student study abroad opportunities allowing students with 15 credit hours of instruction and a grade point average of 2.75 or higher to study in England, Austria or Mexico. The program approves approximately 300 students each semester, waives RLC tuition and fees, and, through the RLC Foundation, awards money to cover airfare. The second program involves hosting foreign students on the RLC home campus, and has hosted over 30 students from 1972 to 1992, including 6 students attending in fall 1992. Next is a faculty, staff and administrator exchange program, which sends participants to work with counterparts in Mexico and Europe for 2 weeks and hosts administrators from foreign countries. The fourth program focuses on faculty, staff and administrator professional development, including the Thailand Project, a 1-month set of seminars in Thailand for industrial technology instructors. Fifth in the list of endeavors is a cluster of campus environment and community outreach programs that include an annual newsletter, a World Affairs Forum, and a Minority Student committee to arrange campus speakers, forums, and artistic events focusing on specific countries. The final program involves an integrated approach to internationalization across the curriculum, including special language programming, the use of the C-SPAN cable television channel, courses on Latin American culture, a learning resource center, and a proposal to send five faculty members and one administrator to the Training and Resource Center for International Education for Community Colleges in the Midwest, located at Kalamazoo Valley Community College in Kalamazoo, Michigan. (MAB)

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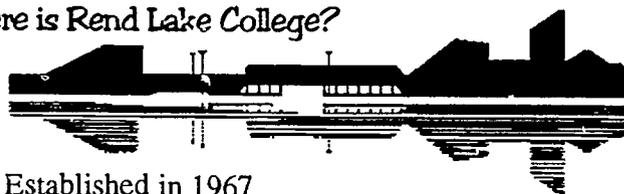
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# Internationalization beyond the Curriculum

*Rend Lake College as a replicable model of an integrated approach to internationalizing the community college making use of existing structures and funding.*

In 1967 when the Illinois Community College act created Rend Lake College (RLC) the board of trustees authorized the granting of visas so that foreign students could be part of the student mix at the college. Fast forward to 1992 where RLC now has an international viewpoint that is being incorporated into the fabric of the college as a whole. This viewpoint encompasses student study abroad programs, foreign students on the home RLC campus, faculty/staff/administration exchange programs in Europe and Mexico, a broadly defined professional development program, a culturally sensitive campus environment and an integrated approach to internationalization across the curriculum. These various components are at different stages of implementation—all under the office of the Vice President Stephen B. Tietz with advisement from the International Committee, Chaired by Joseph Henry Rust, Director, International Studies and Programs.

## First, what and where is Rend Lake College?



- ☞ Established in 1967
- ☞ Located on a \$30 million, 350-acre site near Ina, Illinois, eighty miles southeast of St. Louis, MO and forty miles northeast of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
- ☞ District includes major parts of four counties — Jefferson, Franklin, Hamilton and Perry — parts of Wayne, White, Washington and Williamson
- ☞ District includes 14 high schools
- ☞ State-supported institution has an annual enrollment of approximately 8,000 students and the equivalent of 2,000 full-time students
- ☞ Classes and programs offer a variety of academic and vocational-technical courses ranging from those which provide university-parallel instruction for those students who plan on transferring to a four-year institution to classes providing occupational training for direct entry into the labor market after one or two years.
- ☞ Adult education and developmental classes also are emphasized.

- ☛ Special sectors of the district population served by such programs as the Business Resource and Assistance Center, Small Business Development Center, Volunteer Literacy Project, Early School Leaver Program, Dislocated Worker Assistance Center.
- ☛ Campus includes 10 classroom/office buildings, plus greenhouse and maintenance building, trap shoot facility for meetings
- ☛ Home of the Aerobic Super-Circuit Fitness Center for area residents
- ☛ College has been recognized nationally for its cooperative education programs with area industries, as well as cited statewide
- ☛ Off-campus classes offered throughout district... Mt. Vernon, Benton, McLeansboro, Pinckneyville, Wayne City, Christopher, Woodlawn, Sesser-Valier, etc.
- ☛ Recently awarded maximum 10-year accreditation
- ☛ Recipient of 1.5 million dollar Title III grant

Why is a community college like Rend Lake College involved in the international movement? Because it is part of its mission to the district which has seen the private sector becoming dominated by foreign ownership. Stated in its philosophy and mission statement, to **"Foster global awareness and understanding through its curricula, faculty/staff development, and community outreach programs,"** how does Rend Lake College fulfill this mission? In the following six ways, which will be briefly explained:

## 1. Student study abroad opportunities

RLC is a charter member of the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs (ICISP). ICISP, founded in 1986 with the first semester abroad in 1987, is made up of thirty-eight Illinois Community Colleges and Illinois State University. ICISP has student programs in Canterbury, England, Salzburg, Austria and Queretaro, Mexico. Additional memberships through NAFSA and IIE allow RLC students to be placed in an additional twenty-nine programs in eighteen countries. The ICISP programs have been designed specifically for the community college student, where the majority of the other programs take the student as an entering junior. RLC ranks eighth in the state with students participating in the ICISP programs and supplied the first community college resident program director. Students qualify for the program after they have completed fifteen accumulated hours and have a GPA of 2.75 or higher. Approximately 300 students qualify each semester and are notified by a letter sent from the Center for International Studies and Programs. To help facilitate the

ability of the students to participate, RLC waives its tuition and fees plus the RLC Foundation makes an award to cover the trans-Atlantic airfare. This part of RLC's program is operated out of the Center for International Studies and Programs, directed by Joseph Henry Rust. It has its own separate institutional budget lines. This is appointed as an add on responsibility to a tenured faculty position with no additional salary or release time.

## 2. Foreign students on the RLC home campus

From the beginning RLC has issued student visas. The Director of admissions Sue Wells administrates this part of the program as well as serves as the Foreign Student Advisor. This is appointed as an added responsibility with no additional salary or release time. There were six foreign students attending RLC in the fall of 1992. Chris Kuberski, a tenured English Instructor, is certified as an English as a Second Language instructor having worked with Southern Illinois University at Carbondale's Center for English as a Second Language (CESL) and taught at SIU-Nakajo Japan Campus; she assists foreign students with language problems. RLC's TOFEL score is 500, so the foreign students have more cultural problems than language. This is appointed as an added responsibility, with no additional salary, or release time. The International Committee is currently investigating the feasibility of expanding RLC's foreign population to one hundred students a semester.

### Total recap of RLC's foreign student enrollment (1970-1992)

Australia	1
Canada	6
Jordan	1
Iran	1
Kenya	1
Malaysia	2
Puerto Rico	6
Spain	1
Switzerland	1
Syria	1
United Arab Emirates	1
Yugoslavia	1
Venezuela	7
Zimbabwe	1

## 3. Faculty/Staff and Administration exchange programs

RLC has hosted seven foreign administrators and one faculty member since 1989 on the RLC campus. It has sent to Europe and Mexico three administrators, one board member and one faculty member in the same time frame, with one administrator and two faculty members scheduled to participate in 1993. These exchanges have been arranged in two ways, through ICISP and

by the college. These exchanges are coordinated through the Center for International Studies and Programs and the appropriate administrative office. The form of the exchange is as follows. The host provides housing, transportation and meals during a two week period. During this time the guest mirrors the host on and off the job. At an arranged date the same takes place in the guest's home country. The airfare is the only additional cost. The average expense of these exchanges is \$1,500 per participant, which has come from the Institutional Professional Development/travel budget. Additionally, RLC hosts visitors from many foreign countries on a less formal basis. Administrators are encouraged to help facilitate more exchanges with the counter institution in Europe, while faculty are asked to develop modules for class usage based upon their experience.

#### **4. Faculty/Staff and Administration professional development**

Travel may be used for salary movement by the faculty. Travel expenses are approved for attendance by faculty and administration at International Conventions through the institutional travel budget. In-service programs are presented on international topics as well as satellite conferences. Under the college's sabbatical guidelines a faculty member may apply to teach one semester abroad at one of the ICISP's programs. Industrial technology instructors may apply for the Thailand Project where they offer workshops and seminars over a one—month period of time in Thailand through an arrangement with the **Federation of Private Vocational Schools of Thailand**. RLC has participated in the *Fulbright-Hays* group projects abroad as well as individual faculty in the *Seminars Abroad Program*. Finally the Jean Jordan Kirkpatrick Endowment Fund is used to sponsor special projects to foster better international understanding.

#### **5. Campus Environment and community outreach programs**

All classrooms at RLC have a poster of the study abroad opportunities available to the students. The area around the Center for International Studies and Programs is decorated with framed posters of the world with international time zones prominently displayed. An annual newsletter entitled *R.L.C. Internationally Speaking* is sent to every resident of the district, keeping them abreast of international developments at RLC. During October of each year the World Affairs Forum brings speakers, programs, theatrical performances and art exhibitions to campus which are related to a specific focus country. This year's was Spain. Working with Boatmen's Super Set, Mitchell Museum and Holiday Travel, several organized trips abroad have been made available to the College district. The International committee working with the Minority Student committee is investigating other specific ways of improving cultural sensitivity of the campus environment. The development of a new energy park with the first company being Chinese will present new challenges for programming .

#### **6. Integrated approach to Internationalization across the curriculum**

Special language programming is tailored for General Tire which is jointly owned by American, Japanese and German concerns. C-SPAN is used to air foreign debates and other proceedings such as the House of Parliament and the evening news from Moscow in Speech, History and

Political Science. Sociology is taught from a world viewpoint. Foreign languages are offered with resident instructors and through a novel arrangement with Ohio State University allows all languages to be offered even if only one student is in the class. A new course on Latin American Culture was specially designed as an international offering. Expansion of the Learning Resource Center's collection both print and media support these courses. Finally, a proposal has been made to send a team of five faculty members and one administrator to be trained in developing curriculum modules within existing courses at the **Training and Resource Center for International Education for Community Colleges in the Midwest** at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kalamazoo, Michigan, this May and then return to RLC and train the remaining faculty in this procedure with the ultimate goal of complete curriculum revision by the year 2000.

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