



International Initiatives Fact Sheet

OUR VISION

Education is the key to building a peaceful global community where mutual understanding and tolerance are the hallmark of relationships. Because of the U.S. strategic position in the world, it is essential that American students and those who teach them are at least as well-informed, if not better informed, than their counterparts in other parts of the world. The College of Education (COE) has a responsibility to ensure that all faculty and students who participate in and graduate from its programs - regardless of their particular professional focus - develop a global perspective and an intentional sensitivity to other cultures.

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

The **Office of International Initiatives** was established in fall 2008 to help support the College of Education's priorities related to international education. The Office seeks to coordinate and support a variety of initiatives in the College, including program development, internationalization of teacher education, scholarship in international contexts, study abroad, improved integration and involvement of international scholars and students, and fostering international collaboration on many levels.

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The **International Advisory Committee (IAC)** advises the Dean on policies and actions that support the development and maintenance of international opportunities, studies, perspectives, and involvement by faculty, professional staff, and students in the College of Education.

Each department has been asked to designate one representative to serve as the formal liaison between the IAC and his/her department. However, meetings are open to all members of the College of Education community interested in furthering the international initiatives of the college.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FUND

Administered by the Office of International Initiatives, the purpose of the International Travel Fund is to encourage and support international dimensions of scholarship and program development by members of the College of Education. This may include travel for presentations at international conferences in other countries or travel for specific program development leading to study abroad or other courses that can be offered through the College.

HAROLD R.W. BENJAMIN ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE EDUCATION

The Harold R.W. Benjamin Professorship is named in honor of late Harold Benjamin, who served two terms as dean of the College. It is supported by the Harold R.W. Benjamin National Memorial Fund—an endowed fund created in 1969 with gifts from individuals who were "educated, loved and inspired" by Dr. Benjamin, a leader who

understood the importance of an international perspective for educators.

In April 2009, Professor Steven Klees, director of the International Education Policy program, was named the first recipient of this endowed professorship.

GATE FELLOWS ~ GLOBAL AWARENESS IN TEACHER EDUCATION

In November 2007, the College of Education received a grant from the Longview Foundation to develop and pilot the **Global Awareness in Teacher Education (GATE) Fellows Program**. The College was awarded another grant to support second cohort in spring 2009.

In order to prepare preservice teachers in global education, faculty in the College of Education also need to receive additional training and support in order to address the lack of research on global education, especially in the area of curriculum development for preservice teacher preparation. The **GATE Fellows** program has been designed to address this knowledge gap and begin building a cohort of enthusiastic faculty dedicated to the continued internationalization of the College of Education.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & CENTERS

The **International Education Policy (IEP)** program offers Master's and Doctoral specializations designed to provide an interdisciplinary understanding of today's educational policy and practice. The focus is on the relation of education to economic, political, and social development in both developing and developed countries at local, national, regional, and global levels. Attention is given both to formal schooling, from pre-school to higher education, as well as to nonformal, adult, and community-based education.

The **Second Language Education & Culture** program is an innovative, vibrant and growing unit at the University of Maryland. Housed in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education, this program contains both Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and Foreign Language Education. The Second Language Education Program powerfully combines theory, research, and practice.

The **International Center for Transcultural Education (ICTE)** is a research organization that convenes networks of scholars, researchers, educators, oral historians, policy makers, and social advocates who are committed to the transformation of education policies, practices and perspectives through transcultural teaching and learning.

Mid-Atlantic Region Japan in the Schools (MARJiS)

Established in 1985, MARJiS, through its research partnerships, leadership programs, publications and professional development initiatives, has prepared more than 200 regional and national leaders in the U.S and Japan to integrate transcultural dimensions into pre-college education programs using Japan and the U.S. as cases.