



Monday, January 23, 2012

Dear MSU Community,

Good morning! If I were to ask you, have you traveled or have plans to travel abroad, what would you say? What country have you always wanted to visit? What culture or language would you like to learn more about? Today I would like to focus on the growth and importance of our international initiatives. Global trends are transforming society, and at Montana State University we are preparing our graduates for the "borderless careers" they will enter. Among numerous benefits, international initiatives and experiences expand our horizons, enrich our breadth of appreciation of different cultures and help all of us become well-rounded citizens.

In order to make sure that we are providing our students with the international skills and knowledge they need, MSU-Bozeman is taking part in a national program sponsored by the American Council on Education called the Internationalization Laboratory. Over the coming months, a team led by Robert Marley, Dean of the College of Engineering, and Norm Peterson, Vice Provost for International Education, will be reviewing our international programs and developing a plan to expand Montana State's engagement with the world. If you would like to get involved in the Internationalization Laboratory, please contact them at normp@montana.edu or rmarley@coe.montana.edu. And, everyone is invited to an open dialogue on integrating global, international and intercultural learning into the university on Tuesday, Feb. 7, from 3-5:30 p.m. in the MSU-Bozeman SUB Northwest Lounge.

MSU has been engaged internationally for a long time, and many of our students, faculty and staff are involved in a wide array of international activities around the world. For many years we have attracted students from all over the world to our excellent degree programs. This academic year, we are pleased to welcome 600

students from 71 countries to our Bozeman campus. MSU-Billings is hosting approximately 200 students this semester - a large increase over last year. In addition to educating students from throughout the world on our campuses, MSU offers many opportunities for our students and faculty to travel and study at our partner institutions around the globe.

But having a comprehensive international plan involves more than enrolling international students and sending students abroad. It involves the kind of international research collaboration we are doing with partners in Australia and New Zealand on the connection between global warming and wildfire occurrence. It involves international engagement and service, such as the superb work in Kenya of our award-winning Engineers Without Borders chapter. It involves infusing our classes with international content, which already occurs in many of our classrooms.

I encourage you to take advantage of the many international offerings available on our campuses. Get involved with the Internationalization Laboratory project, attend a meeting of one of the many international student groups, or become a host for an international student. For more information on these and other opportunities, please email international@montana.edu or call 994-4031. And be sure to join me at the 30th annual International Street Food Bazaar on our Bozeman campus Feb. 18, where more than 25 countries will be represented. (Last year, nearly 3,000 people attended this event!) You'll undoubtedly experience something new and have a terrific time in the process!

Have a great week,



Waded Cruzado
President