

Center for International Partnerships in Education (C-IPED)

Self-Study/Program Review

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College: Education

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Year Established: 2012

Year of Last Review: NA

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Mission and Goals

The Center for International Partnerships in Education promotes the interest, research, and collaboration in international education between California State University, Fullerton’s College of Education and global partners around the world. The Center supports partnerships of international conferences, international faculty and student research, recruitment of international graduate students, and creation of study-abroad experiences in education for CSUF students. Interactive dialogue through joint conferences and research, facilitation of research-based best practices in education, and the promotion of inclusiveness for all children has increased student learning, community building, and international awareness among faculty and students.

Association with Mission and Purpose of CSUF

This Center is aligned with the mission and purpose of the university in that it combines education and research for the purpose of expanding knowledge through involvement of faculty and students in international education. The Center contributes to the University mission and goals in the following ways:

Short and Long Term Goals of the Proposed Center on International Partnerships in Education	CSUF Goals and Strategies
1. Increase global awareness through educational collaborations for students and faculty in the College of Education which will promote understanding and effective relationships with diverse communities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Host an increasing number of international students b. Send students from the COE abroad for field experiences in the field of education 	IID. Provide experiences in and out of the classroom that attend to issues of culture, ethnicity, and gender and promote a global perspective. IVA. Create opportunities in and out of the classroom for collaborative activities for students, faculty, and staff.
2. Support education programs with an increase and/or addition of a global perspective in the curriculum	IB. Integrate teaching, scholarly and creative activities, and the exchange of ideas. VIIC. Develop community-centered programs and activities, consistent with our mission and goals, that serve the needs of our external communities.
3. Collaborate with global partners to publish research of best practices in	IIIA. Support faculty research and grant activity that leads to the generation,

education for international dissemination at conferences, workshops, and in international journals.	integration, and dissemination of knowledge. IVA. Create opportunities in and out of the classroom for collaborative activities for students, faculty, and staff.
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Activities

The Puerto Rico International Education (PRIE) Program:

The Puerto Rico International Education (PRIE) Program is the first study abroad program in the College of Education, and offers undergraduate students who are considering a career in teaching the opportunity to do community service in a low-income community in Puerto Rico. Students enroll in READ 360 “Literacy Education for Social Change” (see syllabus attached) in the Spring, and the class includes a two-week fieldwork and community service experience in Vieques, Puerto Rico. This program was born out of a partnership with the University of Puerto Rico in Humacao, and thanks to an MOU signed between Cal State Fullerton and this university (see attached). The purpose of the study abroad program is for students to obtain (40) forty hours of community service working on a grant obtained by the University of Puerto Rico in Humacao in order to improve higher education access in the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico. Thus, students collaborate with professors and students in this university in order to do interviews, organize after school programs and other activities related to this goal.

The first iteration of this Program was in the Spring/Summer 2015, where a total of 13 students from Cal State Fullerton and 7 students from the University of Puerto Rico in Humacao convened in Vieques, Puerto Rico in order to fulfill the fieldwork and community service components of READ 360 "Literacy Education for Social Change". The program ran classes in the Spring 2015 and then took students to Vieques, Puerto Rico in order to fulfill fieldwork and community service requirements for two weeks. The class was taught and coordinated by Dr Julian Jefferies (CSUF) and Dr Ivelisse Rivera (UPR Humacao), where students worked on a project (Colectivo Universitario Para el Acceso) to improve access to higher education for this low-income community. Professors and students got an in-depth look at the community, interviewing high-school students, teachers, college students, parents and community leaders on this topic. A total of 62 interviews were recorded and transcribed. This information was used by Dr Julian Jefferies and Dr Ivelisse Rivera in order to write a report and design a plan to improve access to higher education in the coming months. The program was especially successful since Dr Jefferies was able to recruit first-generation college students, a population that does not usually get to go on study abroad programs.

Partial support for this project was provided by the (i) ASI/IRA Grant, (ii) the COE Scholarship Fund and (iii) the Center for Internships & Community Engagement with funds from the CSU

Chancellor's Office Call to Service Initiative to support service-learning, and CSUF's Student Success Initiative to increase the number of opportunities for students to participate in service-learning and academic internships.

The program has a research component, where Dr Jefferies studies how these experiences train teachers in cultural-competence and prepare them to work with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CLD) populations when they return. This data will be utilized to gauge student transformation and evaluate the role of community service/experiential learning on the trajectory of college students and pre-service teachers.

For the Spring/Summer of 2016, (15) students are enrolled in the class and preparations for the study abroad portion of the trip are being made.

Organizational Structure and Governance

The Center has been led by Dr. Melinda Pierson, Professor and Chair in the Department of Special Education who has developed several partnerships with international universities.

The Advisory Board has served as an integral component of the organizational structure and includes at least one representative from each department in the College of Education. The Advisory Board has met twice each year and the role of this entity is to be the liaison between the individual departments in the College and the Center as well as to actively participate in securing external funding to support the goals of the Center. The members are as follows:

Dr. Deborah Ambrosetti, Department of Secondary Education

Dr. Julian Jefferies, Department of Literacy and Reading

Dr. Vita Jones, Department of Special Education

Dr. Janice Myck-Wayne, Department of Special Education

Dr. Nawong Phutsog, Department of Elementary and Bilingual Education

Dr. Ding Jo Currie, Department of Educational Leadership

Resources and Sustainability

During Intersession of 2016, the President's strategic fund offered a grant opportunity to develop a study abroad program and the center received one of the 10 awards to develop an inclusive education study abroad program for current students or students entering the College of Education. One grant through the United States Office of Cultural Affairs was written in 2012 to support a study abroad program, but it was not funded. Additional grant opportunities are currently being reviewed.

Highlights and Accomplishments

- Existing international partnerships with universities in Puerto Rico, Poland, Germany, and South Africa were strengthened by College of Education faculty member participation in international conferences, joint publications, and scholar visits.
- An international conference on education focusing on Cal State Fullerton and its international partners was held March 6, 2015. A keynote panel from Puerto Rico was featured with international partners from Poland, Germany, Russia, Bulgaria, Japan, Romania, and Spain will be presenters. International partners and faculty from the College of Education presented at the conference in multiple panels and research presentations.
- Five cohorts of preservice teachers completed the International Online Project with students from 8 countries. Students were involved in this internet research project which improved technology skills, international awareness and understanding, and literacy skills through joint research collaborations focusing on different educational research questions. Students presented their research at the CSUF Student Research Day in April of 2014.
- 18 students from the Department of Special Education and Communicative Disorders travelled to Eichstaett, Germany to meet with their collaborative groups to complete the International Online Project
- 13 undergraduate students participated in the first study abroad program for the College of Education in Spring and Summer of 2015 by traveling to Vieques, Puerto Rico in order to fulfill community service requirements for a class.

Planning and Strategic Outlook

Faculty currently involved in working with international partnerships continue to conduct research, present workshops, and co-present at international conferences. International faculty visit the College of Education throughout the year and are hosted by faculty to attend classes, present workshops, develop research projects, visit public school classrooms and attend university events.

One main goal is to secure additional funding to support the study abroad programs and faculty exchange programs. Funding is actively being sought after.

Continued activities and projects for the next three years include a study away program to the University of Port Au Prince, Haiti which is connected to an orphanage school. Approximately 5 students will participate in the first trip in October 2016 to explore possible support and a future partnership. The study abroad program to the University of Eichstaett in

Germany is currently being scheduled for January of 2017. Study abroad programs are high impact activities that create incredible opportunities for students in the College of Education to broaden perspectives, gain experiences in a new culture, and learn collaboration and communication skills with diverse populations.