

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)

U.S.-Brazil Higher Education Consortia Program
Project Abstracts - FY 2004 Awards

U.S. and Brazilian states are indicated in parentheses.

P116M040003

University of North Carolina at Wilmington (North Carolina)

Title: “U.S.-Brazil Business School Consortium”

Partners: Florida Atlantic University (Florida); College of Charleston (South Carolina); Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (Rio Grande do Sul) ; Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (Minas Gerais); Universidade do Sul de Santa Catarina (Santa Catarina).

Subject Areas: Business Administration, International Trade

The United States and Brazil are the largest economies in North and South America with annual trade between the two countries approaching \$30 billion (U.S.). Despite the growing economic relationship between our countries, trade issues have become increasingly contentious. Continued growth in trade between the United States and Brazil is likely to depend on a cadre of young business leaders who are fluent in Portuguese and English, knowledgeable about the cultures of Brazil and the United States, and trained in the means of facilitating trade between the two countries. This project contributes to that goal.

The primary objective of the consortium is to create an ongoing partnership between consortium partners which offers integrated programs that increase communication between business schools in the two countries, promote development of language skills of student participants, provide students and faculty with an in-depth understanding of the two cultures, and develop student knowledge and skills that will facilitate the growth of commerce between the United States and Brazil. Involvement of trade and business organizations as well as placement of students in internships will spread the reach and impact of the program to the local trade and business communities. Students will receive intensive Portuguese language training in the home country and in the host country, and will participate in an internship in the host country. Courses taken in the host country, as part of a joint curriculum, will lead to a certificate in U.S.-Brazil trade. The program will involve faculty at all institutions in teaching, supervising, and hosting students. It will engage trade and commerce organizations and their members, as well as representatives of business organizations as members of program advisory boards and as providers of student internships.

The program includes an annual conference with faculty, enrolled students, the advisory boards, and consortium coordinators. The overall result will be students with the skills, knowledge, perspectives, and experiences necessary for long-term involvement in U.S.-

Brazil commerce and trade. Faculty and the broader trade and business communities will develop a deepened understanding of the language, cultures, economies, needs, and means of commerce and trade between the United States and Brazil. The program will be evaluated through pre- and post-tests of students, faculty, host families, and advisory board members to qualitatively and quantitatively assess their experiences. Partner institutions will use the results to make improvements, to ensure sustainability of the program, and to provide information to other interested academic and professional audiences.

FY 2004 Award: \$29,987

Total Funding Estimate: 4 years, \$209,496

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P116M040006

University of Missouri-Columbia (Missouri)

Title: “U.S.-Brazil Consortium for Interdisciplinary Action on Earth Resources and Environmental Issues”

Partners: Texas A&M University (Texas); Universidade Estadual de Campinas (São Paulo); Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte (Rio Grande do Norte).

Subject Areas: Geology, Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering

Around the world, the use and development of the earth’s resources and the resulting environmental impacts involve many technical, economic, and social issues. When making decisions, scientists and engineers who deal with the technical issues must also consider the pertinent government regulations and effects on society. The Consortium

for Interdisciplinary Action on Earth Resources and Environmental Issues provides an opportunity for U.S. and Brazilian science and engineering students to develop a global understanding of resource use and environmental conservation and to learn about the similarities and differences in the issues surrounding resource development in different parts of the world. The consortium will combine the expertise of faculty at the four participating institutions to develop a curriculum that addresses global areas of concern and to establish cooperative research projects in which students will participate. Students will also be given educational activities out of the classroom, including visits to industries, government agencies, and sites that provide hands-on experience. Evaluation of the consortium activities will occur each year based on student and faculty feedback. The students who participate in the program will be sophomore, junior, and senior undergraduate students in geology, civil engineering, and environmental engineering. The program provides a study abroad opportunity that allows these students to further their education in their field of interest while also learning a new language and culture. The experience that the students receive will greatly increase their understanding of the global issues involved in natural resource use and its environmental impacts.

FY 2004 Award: \$30,497

Total Funding Estimate: 4 years, \$208,985

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P116M040007

University of Connecticut (Connecticut)

Title: “Sustainable Coastal Resource Management”

Partners: California State University, Fullerton (California); Universidade Federal da Paraíba (Paraíba); Universidade Federal Fluminense (Rio de Janeiro).

Subject Areas: Marine and Coastal Studies, Coastal Resource Management

Coastal and marine resources are strategic assets that offer both Brazil and the United States opportunities for economic diversification and integration of coastal tourism, aquaculture, and maritime transportation. To address the need for improved scientific communication and for policy makers equipped to use sound science to promote sustainable coastal resource management, the Coastal Studies Consortium will: (1) develop a sustainable coastal resource management curriculum to enhance a range of majors from coastal studies *per se* to fields like natural resources management, ecology, and development studies; (2) develop language proficiency in Portuguese (for U.S. students) and in English (for Brazilian students) to facilitate effective participation in bilateral and international marine affairs, both scientific and policy-related; (3) foster collaborative research on conservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal resources and governance of coastal resources; and (4) develop formal study abroad programs in Brazil and the United States, focusing on, but not limited to, marine sciences and coastal management. Students participating in this project will be advanced undergraduates (mostly juniors and seniors) and graduate students in marine sciences and related fields.

Indicators to be used to evaluate the accomplishments of the project include: language proficiency of participating students; number of courses developed and/or offered by each institution related to sustainable coastal resource management; number of undergraduate students participating in the project; number of graduate students participating in the project; number of faculty members participating in exchange programs; development of research collaborations; scientific output; and number of extension activities. The project will afford participating students and faculty a larger-scale view of environmental problems in diverse coastal/marine areas, resulting in a deeper understanding of international agreements and policies. Because sustainable coastal resources management is of increasing concern throughout the world, the knowledge and skills to be developed by the participants will be exportable to other regions in the Americas and throughout the world.

FY 2004 Award: \$36,593

Total Funding Estimate: 4 years, \$207,959

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116M040008

University of Texas at Austin (Texas))

Title: “Comparative Public Policy Field Stations”

Partners: University of California, Los Angeles (California); State Universidade Estadual de Campinas (São Paulo); Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (Pernambuco); Fundação Getulio Vargas (São Paulo).

Subject Areas: Public Policy, Social Science

The Bilateral Consortium for Social Science and Public Policy (BCSP) was awarded a previous FIPSE U.S.-Brazil Higher Education Consortia Program grant in 2001. Building on this earlier student exchange effort, the BCSP will implement public policy field stations in Texas and São Paulo in order to further enhance the emerging intellectual, educational, and public policy linkages between the two countries. Despite historical commonalities, such as European colonization, large-scale immigration, and similar geographic, economic, and demographic characteristics, the two countries suffer a remarkable lack of mutual understanding. The BCSP has demonstrated that these barriers can be overcome by training students to become bilingual and to have a deep appreciation of the political systems and policy objectives of a hemispheric neighbor and by supporting scientific exchanges and collaborative research projects. Under this Complementary Activities grant, the BCSP will extend its efforts into local policy communities in the two countries and will offer additional professional training opportunities. With an initial focus on metropolitan governance and health policy, activities of the field stations will include (1) collaboration with local governments on U.S.-Brazil comparative public policy projects, (2) exchange of professors, students, and public officials for workshops and service learning internships in these projects, and (3) the dissemination of the results to policy communities in the United States and Brazil. The BCSP Public Policy Field Station network will sponsor 20 community service internships (10 Brazilian students and 10 U.S. students) and conduct public workshops (one in Austin and one in São Paulo) involving professors, public policy professionals, and students in each year of the two-year project.

FY 2004 Award: \$33,576

Total Funding Estimate: 2 years, \$78,762

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P116M040009

Louisiana State University (Louisiana)

**Title: “Health, Environment, Livestock and People: An International Learning
Community”**

Partners: University of Minnesota-Twin Cities (Minnesota); Southern University
(Louisiana); Universidade Federal de Bahia (Bahia); Universidade Estadual Paulista (São
Paulo).

Subject Areas: Public Health, Veterinary Medicine, Social Sciences, Environmental
Science, Agriculture, Livestock

Globalization trends and regional conflict issues have led to new concerns relating to public health, animal health, trade issues and food security. The objective of the consortium is to establish an interdisciplinary learning community course of study on ‘Health, Environment, Livestock and People’ through an educational exchange of students and faculty at universities in the United States and Brazil. An introductory one-credit-hour recruitment course will be developed to link students enrolled in public health, medicine, and veterinary medicine courses with upper division and advanced graduate students from the social, biological, agricultural, and environmental sciences. The course will also assist students writing project proposals for studies abroad that can be done as a summer elective (6 credit hours). Summer coursework, to be team-taught by

faculty to 22 U.S. and 22 Brazilian students in 2006-2008, will include the equivalent of 2 credit hours of didactic and laboratory coverage of major issues on the global interactions of health, environment, livestock, and people. Following approval of work plans, each student will then complete a mentored special project on a major international health and societal issue during five weeks of independent study (4 credit hours). Using geographic information systems and remote sensing methods, a computer-based spatial database infrastructure will be implemented to map and analyze the environmental risk of human and animal disease and the potential societal effects of health issues related to globalization, trade, food security, and international development. Courses may be credited toward a Master of Public Health degree program by medical and veterinary students or can be taken for undergraduate or graduate school credit at the three U.S. universities. The long-term aim is to initiate a U.S.-Brazil summer institute to provide an opportunity for interdisciplinary study of the interactions of human and animal health and the environment by students enrolled in dual degree MD-MPH and DVM-MPH programs at medical schools, veterinary schools, and schools of public health, and by students in other graduate and undergraduate programs at Western Hemisphere universities. A successful program will be expanded to include additional universities in the United States and Brazil.

FY 2004 Award: \$23,630

Total Funding Estimate: 4 years, \$209,964

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P116M040017

Universidad Metropolitana (Puerto Rico)

Title: “Environmental Affairs and Globalization: Internationalizing the Environmental Studies Curriculum”

Partners: Universidad del Turabo (Puerto Rico); Universia/ Santander Bank (Puerto Rico); Environmental Quality Board (Puerto Rico); Universidad Federal do Amazonas (Amazonas); Universidade Estadual do Norte Fluminense (Rio de Janeiro).

Subject Areas: Environmental Sciences

A major challenge, which faces the environmental studies area is the promotion and advancement of environmental curricula from a cross-cultural perspective and the development and dissemination of instructional materials to foster an environmental conscientiousness among students, faculty, and the general public to support quality of life. The objectives of this project include establishing a consortium of higher education institutions in Puerto Rico and Brazil; partnering with the private and government sectors to promote the exchange of students, faculty, and researchers with Brazilian institutions; expanding and enhancing the consortium institutions’ environmental studies curricula to introduce an international dimension to both content and pedagogy; developing Web-based instructional materials and educational strategies for the key environmental studies courses and sharing them within the consortium and with other universities in the United States, the Caribbean, and Latin America using the Internet; and expanding and enhancing foreign language offerings through the development of a new course in Conversational Portuguese, to be offered as a prerequisite to all students participating in the Student Exchange Program. A total of forty students, twenty from each country, will participate in this project, spending either a semester and/or a three-month intensive summer term at the host institution. Twenty of these students will be junior or senior undergraduates; twenty will be graduate students. The educational impact of this project will extend farther than the borders of the two countries with the strategies to be followed for curriculum development, distance education, and online availability of trilingual (English/Spanish/Portuguese) materials.

FY 2004 Award: \$29,214

Total Funding Estimate: 4 years, \$208,608

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P116M040020

Voorhees College (South Carolina)

Title: “Developing Cultural Context”

Partners: Paul Quinn College (Texas); Centro Federal de Educação Tecnológica do Rio de Janeiro (Rio de Janeiro); Centro Federal de Educação Tecnológica da Bahia (Bahia).

Non-academic partners: South Carolina World Trade Center; Charlestowne Associates (Charleston Chamber of Commerce).

Subject Areas: International Entrepreneurship, Multicultural Business, Intercultural Entrepreneurship

Over the last few decades, the interdependency of the world economies created a global business scenario in which international business and entrepreneurship education play major roles. With the globalization of markets, production, and knowledge, it becomes extremely necessary to educate future business leaders and entrepreneurs in the South Carolina economic and geographic region served by Voorhees College and the southern region of Dallas, Texas, served by Paul Quinn College. Because minority international entrepreneurs are underrepresented in both regions where the colleges are located, there is an urgent need to prepare students in higher education to assume future leadership in international trade, especially involving the vast potential market of Brazil. Likewise, the regions served by Centro Federal de Educação Tecnológica do Rio de Janeiro and Centro Federal de Educação Tecnológica da Bahia in Brazil have an urgent need to produce students that will become international entrepreneurs with multicultural and cross negotiation skills to succeed in the global marketplace, especially in their dealings with U.S. companies. Traditionally, minorities in both the United States and Brazil have had limited exposure to international business or trade opportunities. The objective of this program is to provide students the opportunity to experience the cultures of Brazil and the United States while learning international trade, marketing, and management via bilingual inter-institutional curricula and internships. Students participating in this project are juniors and seniors majoring in business, management, or international entrepreneurship at the partner institutions. The educational preparation that the students receive through this program will greatly contribute to their future careers and will have an impact on the economic development and competitiveness of the U.S. and Brazilian regions served by the partner institutions.

FY 2004 Award: \$29,600
Total Funding Estimate: 4 years, \$204,400

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P116M040022

Regis University (Colorado)

Project Title: “The Science of Degraded Versus Unspoiled Environments: The Cultural Differences of Conservation and Reclamation Emphasized in a Multi-Disciplinary Undergraduate Education”

Partners: University of San Francisco (California); Gonzaga University (Washington); Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (Minas Gerais); Universidade Federal de Alagoas (Alagoas).

Subject Areas: Environmental Studies, Conservation and Reclamation

Successful environmental remediation projects must be designed within the context of local ethnic sensibilities. Therefore, to best prepare our students, environmental education must include multicultural training. Our consortium is focused on the field of environmental studies and consists of faculty from five institutions, three in the United States and two in Brazil. The U.S. institutions are small or medium-sized Jesuit universities with programs in environmental studies that have an interdisciplinary emphasis. These programs blend the areas of sociology, economics, and politics with traditional courses in ecology, biology, and other sciences. This project emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of environmentally-related fields with an emphasis on reclamation and conservation. Students from the United States traveling to Brazil will experience first hand the unique environmental and ecological challenges faced in Brazil today. They will also have an opportunity to perform research with faculty and graduate students in Brazil where our partner universities have extensive

resources for advanced research. Brazilian students traveling to the United States will have an opportunity to take interdisciplinary courses related to the environment, to participate in research, and to see how the United States approaches its own unique environmental challenges. Students participating in the exchange will be advanced undergraduates, mostly juniors traveling in the fall semester. Exchanges between the two countries (24 to 48 students) will expose the students to diverse ecosystems in unfamiliar cultures and provide the practical experience necessary to hone future business skills. This experience will be an invaluable one for American and Brazilian students alike as they earn their degrees and move into environmentally-related disciplines.

FY 2004 Award: \$14,742

Total Funding Estimate: 4 years, \$205,609

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P116M040023

Case Western Reserve University (Ohio)

Title: “Multicultural Diversity, Social Inequality, and the Pursuit of Health in Brazil and the United States”

Partners: Fisk University (Tennessee); Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (Rio Grande do Sul); Universidade Federal da Bahia (Bahia).

Subject Areas: Medical Social Sciences, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Psychology

Both Brazil and the United States are societies characterized by profound diversities and inequalities derived from distinctions among gender, race, class, ethnicity, and religion. Understanding the nature and consequences of such social conditions is critical to the development of students into mature scholars as well as citizens of their respective

nations and the world. Our consortium will organize student activities in two progressive phases: (1) a comparative critical and theoretical analysis of diversity in Brazilian and United States societies, and (2) a critical focus on diversity as it affects health, illness, health care, and healing. The consortium will develop a common curriculum based on medical social sciences and drawing on knowledge from anthropology, sociology, and psychology. We will collaboratively examine methodologies that consider how race, class, gender, ethnicity, and religion affect researchers and the people they study. During their stay at the host institution each student will also participate in a community internship or an experiential learning practicum in collaboration with local students in the community in which the host institution is located. At the end of each year of exchange, students who have participated in the program during that year will participate in a two-day seminar during which they will present the results of their field projects and discuss comparative aspects of gender, race, class, ethnicity, and religion in relation to health.

FY 2004 Award: \$27,555

Total Funding Estimate: 4 years, \$207,372

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P116M040024

Washington and Lee University (Virginia)

Title: “The U.S. Brazil Consortium for Environmental Studies: Student and Faculty Research for the Improvement of Environmental Decision-Making at the Community Level”

Partners: Fairfield University (Connecticut); Universidade Federal do Amazonas (Amazonas); Universidade Estadual do Norte Fluminense (Rio de Janeiro); Universidade Federal do Pernambuco (Pernambuco).

Subject Areas: Environmental Policy, Sustainable Development, Environmental Decision-making

In both Brazil and the United States, high profile environmental issues receive the bulk of the scientific and policy attention. Two aspects of the analysis that are often missing from the policy dialogue are the impact of these high profile changes on local communities and the importance of local environmental change to these communities. Without this information it is difficult for communities to influence national policy to more effectively benefit their communities. It is also difficult for local communities to develop the best policies within their own region for preservation of the environment and the improvement of the standard of living. Our complementary activities project will begin to rectify this information gap by instituting an extension project that consists of student research and outreach activities. The students and faculty will work closely together as a team, with the faculty providing mentorship and the students working as integral parts of the research team, not merely research assistants. The research will be for the purpose of improving the information base upon which decisions are made that influence the environment, economic health, and quality of life at the community level. The students will have a major responsibility for communicating new information to community leaders and helping community leaders develop plans to deal with the environmental and sustainable development issues that they face.

FY 2004 Award: \$29,880

Total Funding Estimate: 2 years, \$78,940

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P116M040025

University of North Carolina at Charlotte (North Carolina)

Title: “The African Diaspora in Brazil and the United States: A Comparative Approach”

Partners: University of South Carolina at Columbia (South Carolina); Winston-Salem State University (North Carolina); The Echo Foundation (North Carolina); Universidade Federal do Paraná (Paraná); Universidade Federal da Bahia (Bahia); Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (Santa Catarina).

Subject Areas: African Diaspora Studies, History of the United States and Brazil, Latin American Studies

As academic discourse on the African presence in the Western Hemisphere has shifted in recent years from an area studies to a trans-Atlantic approach, opinions regarding the legacies of slavery and the incorporation of people of African heritage into the populations of the United States and Brazil have proliferated, with a focus on identities and their connections to access to education, jobs, and political power. This project responds to the need to build institutionally a greater understanding of the impact of the Diaspora in both Brazil and the United States by examining the two countries comparatively. Student exchanges between the United States and Brazil are central to the project. Over three years, 24 students from the United States (advanced undergraduates interested in Latin American or African Diaspora studies) and 18 from Brazil (advanced undergraduates specializing in an aspect of the history of the Americas related to the African Diaspora) will participate in the exchange for a semester or an academic year. Each year, students in both countries will take a special core course and will participate in an online discussion group and a capstone conference. Faculty interaction between U.S. and Brazilian institutions in the form of visits and exchanges will support student exchanges and will foster the dialogue that is the central desired outcome of the project. The collaboration will strengthen an existing state-to-state agreement between the University of North Carolina and 16 universities in Paraná, Brazil, increase Portuguese study in North and South Carolina, and create collaboration among universities within both countries. The project, to be evaluated each year by an outside evaluator in the field, will be a model for focused student exchanges involving languages less commonly taught in the United States.

FY 2004 Award: \$23,075

Total Funding Estimate: 4 years, \$200,000

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P116M040026

University of Maryland at College Park (Maryland)

Title: “U.S.-Brazil Consortium for Future Leadership”

Partners: University of Wisconsin-Madison (Wisconsin); Universidade Federal Fluminense (Rio de Janeiro); Universidade de São Paulo (São Paulo).

Subject Areas: Disability, Rehabilitation, Community Health

The United States and Brazil face common challenges in policy and program development for persons with disabilities. Americans and Brazilians with disabilities struggle with the dual barriers of unemployment and poverty. Individuals with disabilities in both countries encounter negative social attitudes and other environmental barriers that impede integrated community living. Citizens with disabilities in both countries, as well as their non-disabled family members, friends, and neighbors, have realized positive legislative and social policy outcomes as a result of these shared struggles. The Consortium for Future Leadership will establish a cross-country student exchange project to provide a unique opportunity for comparative study and postsecondary training in disability policies, program administration, and program evaluation in the United States and Brazil. Faculty participating in this project represent the multidisciplinary nature of the consortium, including rehabilitation, psychology, special education, Latin American Studies, and policy. Students participating in the project will be advanced undergraduates and graduate students in relevant disciplines. The consortium is designed to engage the current and future leaders of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors in the ongoing transformation of international rehabilitation services. Through research and teaching activities, the consortium will explore the

changing relationships among the public, private, and nonprofit sectors; encourage effective cross-sector collaborations within and between each country; and eventually improve the capacity of all three sectors to serve its citizens with disabilities.

FY 2004 Award: \$16,393

Total Funding Estimate: 4 years, \$208,786

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