Internationalizing the Island University

Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi
Flavius Killebrew, President
http://www.tamucc.edu
Mission Statement

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is an expanding, doctoral-granting institution committed to preparing graduates for lifelong learning and responsible citizenship in the global community. We are dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, creative activity and service, and our supportive, multicultural learning community provides undergraduate and graduate students with a challenging educational experience. The university’s federal designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) provides a foundation for closing historical educational gaps, while our strategic location on the Gulf of Mexico and on the cultural border with Latin America provides a basis for gaining national and international prominence.
Islander Facts

- 9,000 Students
  - 51% White, 38% Hispanic, 2% Asian, 1% Native-American, 1% Unknown, 3% *International*
- 240 Acre Campus on Ward Island
  - 137 Acre Gift from the City for Expansion
- Recent New Programs:
  - Mechanical Engineering (PLA)
  - Bachelor of Applied Science
  - Geospatial Engineering (Master’s)
  - Marine Biology (Master’s and Doctoral)
  - Communications (Master’s)
Islander International Facts

- 315 International Students Enrolled
  - 217 International Students 2007
- 182 ESLI Students on Campus
  - 134 ESLI Students 2007
- 83 Study Abroad Students (since inception)
  - 3 Faculty-Led Programs (38 Students—Mexico, France/Italy, Spain)
- 4 International Visiting Faculty
  - 3 International Visiting Faculty 2007
- 4 Reciprocal Exchange Agreements (all inactive)
What’s Working

- ESLI—English as a Second Language International
  - Grown from 15 Students in Fall 2005 to 182 Students Now
  - Largest ESLI Center in US and Canada
  - Will Graduate 69 Students into TAMU-CC this Spring
- Faculty Led Programs Abroad
  - 3 in 2 years (from 1 in 10 years)
- Faculty-Driven Internationalization Efforts
  - Plank in University’s Strategic Plan
  - 3 Task Forces Producing 3 Position Papers
What Needs Fixing

- Faculty Task Forces
  - 3 Position Papers with No Tangible Results in 3 Years Involving over 20 Faculty Members each Year
- Study Abroad
  - Only One Student Currently Abroad
- Reciprocal Exchange Agreements
  - Zero Have Been Renewed
- Programs for International Students
  - Zero Programs 2007
  - No One Charged with Leadership
Islander Solutions

• Yet Another Faculty Task Force
  • But with Staff, Faculty, and Student Stakeholders
  • With Charge to Develop Strategic Plan with 4 Action Items with Budgets
• Centralize International Efforts
  • Rename Office of International Programs—Office of International Education (change focus)
  • Hire International Student Advisor (done)
  • Hire International Education Director
  • Create an International Student Lounge in University Center
  • House all International Personnel in University Center
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- Programming for International Students (using International Fee Funds)
  - Partner with World Affairs Council for Speakers
  - Monthly Program Focusing on Specific Region/Country
  - International Week Program each Semester
- Study Abroad
  - Study Abroad Fairs Each Semester with Prizes
  - Simplify Study Abroad Protocol and Paperwork, especially Transcript Evaluation
  - Increase Study Abroad Fee from One Dollar to Four Dollars
  - Write Grant for International Scholarships and Study Abroad Initiatives
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- Faculty Led Programs
  - Workshop on How to Initiate International Programs
  - Develop Relations with International Partners to Bring Classes to Campus
  - Teach Core Curriculum Courses in Blended 5 Week Sessions (2 Weeks in Corpus Christi; 3 Weeks Abroad to Accommodate Students Employed Full-Time-80% of TAMU-CC Students)
  - Collaborate with Other Texas Universities in Enrolling Students in Each Other’s Programs
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- Reciprocal Exchange Agreements
  - Create an Exchange Agreement Template
  - Promote Fulbright Exchanges
  - Facilitate Faculty in Contacting Colleagues Abroad
  - Actively Contact International Universities with Maritime and Science and Technology Emphases

- Faculty Involvement
  - Faculty Advisory Council for International Education
  - Annual Assessment Report of Activities to Faculty Senate and President’s Council
Making TAMU-CC’s Future International

- Integrate Action Items from Task Force into Momentum 2015
- Establish Realistic, but Ambitious Goals for Study Abroad
- Increase Space for ESLI to Bring Additional Students to Campus
- Mainstream International Students into Campus Life
- Develop a Culture that Celebrates and Promotes International Experiences