International Education

In July 1995, Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan signed into law House Bill No. 442, which designated Missouri Southern as “a statewide institution of international or global education.” The bill directed the university to “develop such academic support programs and public service activities it deems necessary and appropriate to establish international or global education as a distinctive theme of its mission.”

The faculty and administration of Missouri Southern developed over the next year the outline of a comprehensive plan of international education. Included was the establishment of the Institute of International Studies, charged with overseeing the internationalizing of the campus. Our International Mission efforts have included:

- Adding new majors in International Business, International Studies, French and German.
- Adding new minors in Japanese, Chinese and Russian and courses in Arabic.
- Designing “themed semesters,” where the Fall semester of every year focuses on a particular country, continent or region of the world.
- Expanding opportunities and providing grants for some 2,500 MSSU students to study abroad.
- Signing agreements with 16 international universities for student exchange: 3 in Japan, 2 in China, 2 in Sweden, 2 in Germany, 2 in France, 1 in Russia, 1 in Finland, 1 in Costa Rica, 1 in Taiwan and 1 in Canada.
- Joining the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP), in order to exchange students with universities around the world.
- Joining the Missouri London Program and Missouri Greece Program consortia along with other universities from the State of Missouri. Students and faculty can spend an entire semester in London or Athens.
- Infusing the curriculum with 150 new courses that are either international courses or courses with a predominantly international focus.
- Establishing an International Trade & Quality Center and becoming the headquarters of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors (ISWNE).
- Developing an International English Program, to help students from all over the world improve their spoken and written English in an academic setting.
- Establishing the Gockel International Symposium, which brings world-renowned scholars to campus every year.
- Creating the McCaleb Initiative for Peace to examine the causes and prevention of war. At least one Missouri Southern student-faculty team receives up to $5,000 every year for an in-depth research project that involves traveling to the sites of former wars and conflicts.