

Globalization/Internationalization

Return on investment

September 26, 2013

Why invest in globalization?

- Provides global context for the learning experience of Lehigh students and contributes to their marketability after graduation and life-long cultural sensitivities
- Enhances the international cultural awareness for Lehigh's community-at-large
- Supports faculty expanding their own international network
- Provides new opportunities for research collaboration within and across disciplines
- Increases the number of undergraduate and graduate students studying at Lehigh and number of visiting international scholars
- Provides direct financial benefits to Lehigh through tuition and research support
- Enhances Lehigh international reputation through the expansion of Lehigh's international footprint

What has been Lehigh's return on investment from 2009 to 2013?

I. Expanding international experiences for students and making them affordable

- Increased number of student experiences abroad from 541 in 2008 to 665 in 2013 (23% increase)
- Provided leadership and established best practices in the creation of new summer international internships, work and learn, three-way collaborations, and theme-based experiences (including research)
- Provided non-traditional destinations for international experiences outside of students' comfort zone
- Strategically used alumni network and institutional connections to identify new international opportunities for students at universities, corporations, NGOs, and government agencies overseas
- Increased Lehigh-led international programs from 9 in 2007 to 40+ in 2013
- Generated new external funds and established a sustained endowment that made it possible to create new types of international internships and reach more underrepresented, financially needy, and first-time students

II. Increasing faculty engagement

- Made a steady, but modest, increase in new faculty engagement in international activities, i.e. among other activities, creating and leading, new opportunities for undergraduate experiences abroad, as well as establishing faculty study groups to develop institutional partnerships in Asia, Africa, and India
- An informal review showed 151 faculty members (34% of tenured and tenure-track faculty) had some involvement in international activities during the period January 2010 to December 2012
- Faculty created new theme-based international internships for undergraduate students and to build their own international networks. (1 in 2012; 4 in 2013; 9 in 2014)
- 6 Lehigh faculty won Fulbright scholarship over the past 4 years
- Increased number of visiting scholars collaborating with Lehigh faculty on research from 30 (2011) to 45 (2013). In almost all cases, scholars come with full funding

III. Establishing Lehigh as a destination for international students and visiting scholars

- Increased international undergraduate students studying at Lehigh from 167 in 2008 to 354 in 2013 (111% increase), and graduate students from 484 in 2008 to 733 in 2013 (51% increase)
- Increased number of Fulbright graduate students/scholars coming to Lehigh from 5 in 2009 to 21 in 2013
- Iacocca Institute's Pennsylvania School for Global Entrepreneurship draws 76 high school students from ~20 countries for a four-week summer program at Lehigh; annually ~20 of them apply for admission to Lehigh
- Iacocca Institute's Global Village (GV) draws more than 100 executives and entrepreneurs from 54 countries for a summer program at Lehigh

IV. Expanding Lehigh's international footprint

- Developed institutional partnerships with universities in China (6), Indonesia (6), Malaysia (2), Singapore (1), and Russia (1)
- Exploring possible institutional partnerships in India (January 2014) and Africa (March 2014)
- Enhancing communication with Lehigh alumni abroad (e-newsletter, personal visits by faculty and staff, and Lehigh delegation) to help spread Lehigh brand internationally, recruit students, and create venues for international experiences for Lehigh students

V. Developing an international portfolio and an organization and infrastructure to launch and sustain Global Lehigh

- Created a vision and a holistic international portfolio with four priorities as roadmap for internationalizing of Lehigh
- Developed an organizational structure to support Global Lehigh portfolio
- Continuously aligning and leveraging resources, recognizing increased international programs/activities

Looking Ahead—Next Challenges: Starting point for discussion by Global Affairs Sub-Committee

- What quantitative and qualitative measures should we use to assess the impact of the globalization investment at Lehigh?
- How do we engage faculty in a meaningful way? What is in it for them? How should the university formally and informally recognize their international efforts?
- To expand Lehigh's international footprint and strategic partnerships, where should we be and why as an institution versus individual faculty relationships?
- How can we leverage BOT and alumni contacts to create sustainable venues for the expansion of international internships and work and learn experiences for undergraduate students?
- How do we integrate internationalization into the Lehigh fabric?