

# **FY 2010 Project Abstracts**

## **U.S.-Brazil Higher Education Consortia Program**

**P116M100002**

**Work Environment and Job Opportunities for People with Disabilities**

**U.S. Lead:** Temple University

**U.S. Partner:** St. Cloud State University

**Brazil Lead:** Universidade Federal de Bahia

**Brazil Partner:** Universidade Tuiuti do Parana

The primary goal of this project is to promote cross-national awareness and understanding of the significant contributions people with disabilities make to work environments. Students participating in this program will engage in multi-cultural activities to gain knowledge and awareness about the social consideration and technological solutions that raise employment opportunities for people with disabilities. In this program students will become advocates for the accommodations needed in the workforce that promote cross-national awareness and understanding of the significant contributions people with disabilities make to work environments. Students will also gain hands-on experiences through the site visits and/or internships offered as part of this program, and will become familiar with tools that assist the growth and the strengthening of their community business practices towards the creation of a better world.

**Total FIPSE Funding: \$196,496**

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**P116M100003**

**The U.S.-Brazil Consortium for Sustainable Drinking Water Studies**

**U.S. Lead:** Missouri University of Science and Technology

**U.S. Partner:** University of Mississippi

**Brazil Lead:** Universidade Federal do Cear'a

**Brazil Partner:** Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janeiro

The proposed FIPSE project provides American and Brazilian undergraduate and graduate students in engineering, natural sciences, social sciences, and business the opportunity to add a thematically-focused multi-disciplinary international dimension to their academic training. The main objectives of the U.S.-Brazil project are to: (a) focus on the study of sustainable drinking water in developing areas including the study of water sources, water quality, water disinfection and treatment, water distribution, health-based water education, water economics, and other related topics; (b) attract students and faculty from engineering, natural science, social science, business, and the humanities academic programs; (c) promote cooperation in the development of teaching methods and teaching standards between the American and Brazilian Universities; and (d) provide an opportunity for American undergraduate and graduate students studying elements of the drinking water theme to learn the Portuguese language, to become acquainted with the Brazilian culture, and to establish personal and professional contacts outside the United States. Some of the unique aspects of the project include recruiting students using outreach through Freshman Engineering classes, recruiting women using a high school camp called Girls Go Global, recruiting other minority students, explicitly addressing accreditation issues associated with transferring engineering credits to U.S. degree programs, and using a combination of specialty courses and internet-based distance education to provide Portuguese language training to students in the United States prior to traveling to Brazil.

**Total FIPSE Funding: \$242,022**

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**P116M100004**

**Diversity: The Challenges of 21st Century Educators**

**U.S. Lead:** Ashland University

**U.S. Partner:** Georgetown College, Brigham Young University

**Brazil Lead:** Universidade Estadual de Santa Catarina

**Brazil Partner:** Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro

The proposed project intends to prepare educators to be globally aware 21st century professionals in the classroom. Having experienced language and cultural competency components presented in this project students will become aware of not only the lived realities of diversity and educational equity issues in their own communities (both regionally and nationally in the United States) but an in depth comparative model of their systematic conditions with that of Brazilian education at its local and national levels. The final outcome is to create a shared philosophy by all partners in this consortium, of the importance of preparing pre-service teachers to succeed as agents of change in forming a global community of 21st century educators.

**Total FIPSE Funding: \$249,091**

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**P116M100005**

**3 Sign Languages, 2 Countries, 1 Vision**

**U.S. Lead:** Gallaudet University

**U.S. Partner:** The University of Hawaii, Kapi'olani Community College

**Brazil Lead:** Universidade Federal do Cear'a

**Brazil Partner:** Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina

This consortium propose to create a four-year consortium project to enhance and expand cooperative efforts in education in a new area for joint activities in fields related to signed languages and deaf communities, in order to strengthen and expand existing programs. The proposed project will create diversified educational exchanges between students in the United States and Brazil, with student exchanges in areas related to Deaf Education, signed language teaching in American Sign Language and Brazilian Sign Language, Deaf Studies, translation and interpretation, and linguistics. The proposed consortium will enhance the mobility of students and faculty by linking the consortium institutions via mutual recognition of credits and studies, as well as developing new courses and programs created in distance formats for the consortium project which will be continued for future generations of students after the conclusion of the grant-supported project.

**Total FIPSE Funding:** \$225,235

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**P116M100007**  
**Marine Sciences**

**U.S. Lead:** San Diego State University

**U.S. Partner:** UC/San Diego, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

**Brazil Lead:** Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

**Brazil Partner:** Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco

This consortium will create a completely new integrated and interdisciplinary course in marine sciences to be taught in Brazil and San Diego. The first part of the course will convene in Rio de Janeiro at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. The course will cover ecology (including microbial ecology) and biology. A major goal of this consortium is to provide the students with hands-on experience in fieldwork, including sample collection, data sequencing and analysis. The individual components of this novel curriculum are all in place, but have never been integrated into a single course designed to educate students from multiple locales simultaneously.

**Total FIPSE Funding: \$250,000**

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**P116M100008**

**Sustainable Energy and Aeronautical Engineering**

**U.S. Lead:** Florida State University

**U.S. Partner:** University of Pittsburgh

**Brazil Lead:** Universidade Federal de Itajuba

**Brazil Partner:** Universidade Federal do Parana

The project will provide students with training in the technical areas of sustainable energy and aeronautical engineering, while emphasizing mobility of current students and future engineers between the two countries. The key to this training is the development of a seamless process integrating recruitment, language preparation, international design projects, student exchange, mentored internship and graduate-level research collaborations between the two countries.

**Total FIPSE Funding: \$248,543**

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**P116M100010**

**GOL! Generating Opportunities for Leadership in a Globalized Western Hemisphere**

**U.S. Lead:** The University of Texas at El Paso

**U.S. Partner:** Canisius College

**Brazil Lead:** Universidade Federal Rio Grande do Sul

**Brazil Partner:** Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janeiro

This consortium creates a U.S.-Brazil partnership among four universities focusing on the key issues of social and corporate responsibility in an era of globalization and transnational trade. This project will develop interdisciplinary leaders in the private and public sectors who can address the externalities of globalization and transnational trade as a result of their participation in enhanced and challenging study abroad experiences in the Western Hemisphere. The cornerstone of this program is a strong language and culture component supported by faculty and staff with a strong commitment to ongoing professional exchanges.

**Total FIPSE Funding: \$249,560**

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**P116M100011**

**Water Security and Sustainable Development in Drylands**

**U.S. Lead:** Texas Tech University

**U.S. Partner:** University of New Mexico

**Brazil Lead:** Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais

**Brazil Partner:** Universidade de Sao Paulo, Universidade Federal de Campina Grande

The proposed project will prioritize the participation of students interested in study areas related to water resource management, patterns and processes in dryland ecosystems, agricultural production, landscape architecture, geotechnical engineering, and the application of remote sensing technology in planning and development. This project provides an opportunity for curriculum improvement and stimulated collaboration among students and faculty in the two countries. The project will enhance the academic training of future professionals and give them the opportunity to create a network of international contacts. Additionally, project participants will further develop their understanding of the many aspects of Brazilian culture, as well as of the everyday life, needs, economies, and the special issues characterizing life in the drylands of Brazil and of the United States.

**Total FIPSE Funding: \$249,861**

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**P116M100014**

**Consortium for Promoting Cross-Linguistic Understanding of Communication Disabilities in Children**

**U.S. Lead:** East Tennessee State University

**U.S. Partner:** University of Northern Iowa

**Brazil Lead:** Universidade Federal de Santa Maria

**Brazil Partner:** Universidade de Sao Paulo-Bauru

The purpose of this proposed U.S.-Brazil university consortium is to foster student exchange and curriculum development, as well as language and cultural skills, among U.S.-Brazil speech-language pathology and audiology students. This consortium program will target cross-linguistic communication disabilities in children resulting from diverse etiologies, including cleft lip and/or palate, children with speech disorders, hearing impairment, and autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Through this partnership, U.S. and Brazilian students will be provided comprehensive and in-depth academic and clinical preparation in the cross-linguistic assessment and treatment of children with communication disabilities through internet-based coursework, webinars, educational visits to host institutions, and student exchange for a semester of study abroad. In addition to coursework, students will have the opportunity to participate in the delivery of clinical services in both urban hospital and university clinical settings in Brazil and the United States. Students will also have the opportunity to learn the social and cultural differences that exist in the United States and Brazil in working with families from an ecological model of child development (Bronfenbrenner, 1994), and to assess the impact of communication disabilities within the unique socio-cultural contexts of families and communities that exist in the two countries.

**Total FIPSE Funding: \$250,000**

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**P116M100017**

**Cultural Connection Through Jazz and Popular Music**

**U.S. Lead:** University of Louisville Research Foundation

**U.S. Partner:** University of Cincinnati

**Brazil Lead:** University of Brasilia

**Brazil Partner:** State University of Campinas

A consortium of four universities from the United States and Brazil proposes to create a program to link music curriculum in jazz/popular music performance and music composition utilizing the unique characteristics and styles of jazz as developed in the United States and Brazil and to create an international exchange program of music faculty and undergraduate/graduate students to study at member institutions of the consortium. Curricular products of the consortia may be disseminated through distance education and Web-based systems, enabling the learning materials to be used at many universities that offer jazz and popular music courses for graduate and undergraduate students.

**Total FIPSE Funding: \$252,283**

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**P116M100020**

**DIVERCITY: Creating and Maintaining Sustainable Diverse Urban Communities**

**U.S. Lead:** University of Washington

**U.S. Partner:** Florida International University

**Brazil Lead:** Universidade de Federal do Rio de Janeiro

**Brazil Partner:** Universidade de Federal da Bahia in Brazil

A key question is how does creating and maintaining sustainable diverse urban communities improve the viability of central or suburban neighborhoods? This question represents a field of investigation that has a high level of concern and is of keen interest to the researchers from our four-university consortium will interface with city officials, urban designers and sociologists, planners and social workers in U.S. and Brazilian cities. *DIVERCITY* will examine the relevance of this “new” perspective in Seattle, Miami, Rio de Janeiro and Salvador. The consortium will study and share innovative neighborhood programs and will recommend practical solutions to policymakers. *DIVERCITY* stresses the importance of active student academic involvement through scientific learning and practical training as well as by exchange programs that are built-in for the strategic planning of U.S. and Brazilian universities. The goals are to integrate undergraduate student mobility into each university’s curriculum, strive to develop curriculum transparency across each institution and allow students to take recognized courses and field training at any consortium institution. *DIVERCITY* will provide students in urban sociology, planning, architecture, urban design and social work firsthand academic, social and cultural experiences abroad in either Brazil or the United States.

**Total FIPSE Funding: \$261,064**

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**P116M100025**

**Globalization: Socio-Economic, Political, and Environmental Interdependence**

**U.S. Lead:** Michigan State University

**U.S. Partner:** Kansas State University, University of Northern Iowa

**Brazil Lead:** Federal University of Para

**Brazil Partner:** Federal University of Bahia, Universidade de Sao Paulo-Bauru

The FIPSE proposal describes a research and education program that will help faculty and students from the member institutions rise to this challenge of understanding our globalizing world, with its many impacts on environment and society. The program, intended to expand international understanding and cooperation between the two largest economies in the Western Hemisphere, the United States and Brazil. The proposed program builds from on-going research and education collaborations between these partner institutions, and establishes a sustainable and shared cultural and educational exchange that incorporates undergraduate research opportunities with an innovative multi-disciplinary and international curriculum. In so doing, it aligns well with the international mission of member institutions that maintain at their core the internationalization of education and the fostering global partnerships. The program developed will serve as a model 21st century education collaboration combining integrated and interactive classrooms and social networking with language training and cultural exchange for all student and faculty participants. The proposed program will be functional by beginning of year two, and will serve an estimated six students, followed by eight in year three, and eight in year four. Given the importance of global exchange across the partner institutions, the project leaders will work with other faculty at the member institutions to develop similar exchange programs in other academic areas, such as Public Health, Global Business, and Digital Democracy, three important research interests within the consortium, ensuring that the education and research program is institutionalized.

**Total FIPSE Funding: \$246,329**

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**P116M100027**

**Translational Biomedical Training for Underrepresented Minorities**

**U.S. Lead:** Wright State University

**U.S. Partner:** Cuyahoga Community College, Central State University, Wake Forest University, Winston Salem State University, North Carolina Central University

**Brazil Lead:** University of Sao Paulo

**Brazil Partner:** Mackenzie University, University Federal Minas Gerais, University Federal Rio Grande do Sul

Translational Biomedical Training for Underrepresented Minorities is an educational partnership between schools in the United States and Brazil designed to improve the education of undergraduate students from health disparate populations by offering an innovative, hands-on exposure to biomedical research in an international setting. The ultimate goal is to encourage pursuit of high level careers by students underrepresented in biomedical sciences with the objective of understanding and eliminating health problems common to this population, such as cardiovascular and metabolic dysfunction.

**Total FIPSE Funding: \$250,000**

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**P116M100029**

**U.S. Brazil Sustainability and Sustainable Development Education Initiative**

**U.S. Lead:** Appalachian State University

**U.S. Partner:** Florida A&M University

**Brazil Lead:** Universidade de Federal Rural de Pernambuco

**Brazil Partner:** Universidade de Fortaleza, Universidade de Estadual Do Amazonas

One of our greatest challenges today is to learn to live with each other on this planet in a sustainable manner. The commitment of the partners in this project to educating for sustainability and sustainable development is evident in their existing programs. The *U.S.-Brazil Sustainability and Sustainable Development Education Initiative* will contribute by helping to prepare our students for a fast-paced world of rapid scientific, social, technological, workforce, and demographic changes. The project will help students at participating partner institutions develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge to make informed decisions for their own benefit and others, now and in the future, and to act upon these decisions. Through this project, our institutions will change operational, curricular, and policy norms so all students can learn and practice how to be environmentally, socially, economically responsible, and active citizens in a global village. We will engage our students as effective agents for change in the sustainability challenges we face together as societies. Students will understand that their daily decisions affect the quality of life of people around the globe now and in the future. The ultimate goal of the proposed project is to improve the quality of undergraduate and graduate education with a focus on sustainability and sustainable development through the exchange of curricula and language acquisition, faculty and staff, students, and cultural experiences.

**Total FIPSE Funding: \$250,000**

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**P116M100030**

**One Nation out of Many: Multiculturalism in Brazil and the United States**

**U.S. Lead:** Vanderbilt University

**U.S. Partner:** University of Florida

**Brazil Lead:** Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul

**Brazil Partner:** Federal University of Pernambuco

This consortium will facilitate student exchange and collaborative research around the idea of multiculturalism—bringing to the fore issues of similarities and differences in citizenship and identities in both Brazil and the United States. Both Brazil and the United States are societies characterized by profound diversities and inequalities derived from distinctions among race, ethnicity, gender and religion. Understanding the nature and consequences of such social conditions is critical to the educational development of students as citizens of their respective nations and the world. Thus, building on existing transnational and comparative approaches, this project brings together scholars from four major research universities in Brazil and the United States to probe, from various interdisciplinary perspectives, the processes, dynamics, and implications of multiculturalism.

**Total FIPSE Funding: \$253,872**

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