

The Buzz

SUNY Broome News

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SUNY Broome Community College to Strengthen Connections at International Dual Degree Conference

January 30, 2014

Categories: Featured News

SUNY Broome Community College, will meet with more than 40 Russian and American colleges and universities in New York City on February 1 to discuss the challenges and opportunities of dual degree programs between Russian and American institutions of higher learning.

“Higher education is one of America’s most valued exports worldwide, and we are proud at SUNY Broome to be national leader among community colleges in a market dominated by major universities and private colleges the likes of which will be attending this conference,” said SUNY Broome Community College President, Dr. Kevin Drumm. “We’re in rare company among our nation’s great colleges and universities as the only community college having been invited.”

In addition to SUNY Broome, the U.S./Russia Joint Dual Degree Partnership Conference will be attended by George Mason University, Bard College, the University of Wisconsin, Moscow State University, and the Russian Academy of Sciences.

“We have been invited to participate because we’ve been successfully building a dual degree program with Novosibirsk State University of Economics and Management since 2005,” said Alberto Miller, director of international education at SUNY Broome. “The

goal of the conference is to develop a network of American and Russian institutions and lay a foundation for future cooperation.”

The conference will be organized around a series of round-table discussions focusing on program structures, student admissions, faculty selection, curriculum development, and administrative models.

“We’ll be exchanging ideas and describing the successes, difficulties, and mutual opportunities international education provides our respective institutions,” Miller said. “We want to come away with a practical understanding of the challenges and rewards of international dual programs.”

Among the challenges: language proficiency, accreditation requirements, student costs, degree recognition, and visa approvals. The rewards include positive impacts on student learning, increased teaching and research opportunities for faculty, and enriched cultural understanding.

“For SUNY Broome, our dual degree programs in business administration, international business, marketing, and sales increase our international mission of participating in a global educational environment,” said Miller. “It also gives opportunities to our faculty and staff to participate in international initiatives. For Novosibirsk, a dual degree with an American institution enhances their standards of education, provides the prestige of an American credential, and increases job opportunities and professional successes.”

While in Haiti...

January 27, 2014

Categories: Featured News

BIO/HST 104: Health for Haiti

Winter 2014

Dr. Jen Musa and Professor Maureen Hankin

www.healthforhaiti.wordpress.com

Flickr Gallery: http://www.flickr.com/photos/bcc_bio/sets/72157639791786336/

While in Haiti:

We purchased and distributed food (rice, beans, fish, and oil) to five hundred families in Cite Soleil. Cite Soleil is the largest slum in the Western Hemisphere, where over 800,000 people live in an area of about eight square miles. The people in Cite Soleil are desperately poor and live in deplorable conditions. Each bag of food was sufficient to feed a family for about two weeks. It was the largest food distribution ever done in Cite Soleil.

- We partnered with a Haitian doctor, Dr. Germaine Robinson, to provide free health clinics to more than 200 people. Prior to our trip, we collected medical supplies that were distributed to the patients. We held clinics in Carre Four Faille and Grande Saline, and helped Dr. Robinson to treat malaria, cholera, high blood pressure, worms, skin diseases, scabies and respiratory infections.
- Using material provided by Partners in Health, we delivered education about personal hygiene and cholera to more than 300 children and adults. We attempted to dispel the damaging myths that surround cholera in Haiti, and to encourage healthy practices that may lead to substantial disease prevention.
- We provided 75 families in Grande Saline with a Family LifeStraw unit (<http://www.vestergaard.com/our-products/lifestraw>). Each of these units can provide a family with clean drinking water for three years. We trained the families

on how to use the LifeStraw units. We have a Haitian follow-up team that will visit the families and be sure that they are using the units properly. Grande Saline is a community that has no access to clean water. They drink water from a local river that is contaminated with waste and disease. This area has suffered from periodic outbreaks of cholera. We also collected water samples from the river and interviewed the residents about their water use.

- We provided care and comfort to the sick and the dying at Mother Teresa's Hospital for Babies and Mother Teresa's Hospital for the Dying.
- We visited and played with orphans at three different orphanages. We also treated over forty orphans to a fun beach day where we provided lunch and snacks.
- We visited a new school in one of Haiti's tent cities. The school serves 150 children during the day and also serves as a sewing school for the children's parents in the evening. The women who have learned to sew can make school uniforms and are able to earn some money to support their families.

Future Plans:

- We are working with the Pall Corporation in Cortland, NY to obtain a major water filtration system for Grande Saline. The system would filter 30,000 gallons of water a day, and could supply safe, clean water to the community. If we can arrange shipping, installation and maintenance of the system, Pall may give it to us at a very low cost (or perhaps even donate the system). We are working with the community to determine the best location for the system and to set up a community cooperative to maintain and service the system.
- We hope to obtain funds to purchase some computers for the residents of Grande Saline. This remote area has no technology and very few opportunities for young people. Access to computers and the internet could lead to better education and job training. Dr. Robinson has specifically asked us to work on this project.
- We hope to raise support for the tent city school we visited. It costs about \$160 to pay a teacher's salary for one month. The school hopes to support about ten teachers for the 150 students. The students, who are so eager to obtain an

education, will also need uniforms and a meal. For most of them, this may be their only meal of the day. The sewing school needs to power their generator to run the sewing machines, and also needs fabric and other sewing supplies.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead