

Focus on International Education: SUNY Broome forges ties with Colombia **updated**

September 30, 2015

SUNY Broome has increased its international scope with a variety of new programs that draw students from abroad. This is the second in a weekly series of articles on the new programs. [For the first installment, on the CBYX Program, click here.](#) Click the links in the article below for other features on SUNY Broome connections to Colombia.

La Fundación Universitaria Tecnológico Comfenalco is [2,000 miles](#) from the SUNY Broome campus, but distance is no obstacle to education.

SUNY Broome has been forging connections with the university, located in Cartagena, [Colombia](#), since 2008. That's when Dr. Alberto Miller, director of SUNY Broome's Department of International Education and Study Abroad programs, visited Tecnológico Comfenalco to work with leaders there on developing joint academic programs, as well as student and faculty exchanges. The result: an active agreement between the two campuses to promote activities related to international cooperation.

Since then, several SUNY Broome faculty members have visited and lectured at Comfenalco. In turn, SUNY Broome has welcomed several Comfenalco leaders, including Dr. Ricardo Segovia Brid, President of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Mauricio Ruiz, President of Tecnológico Comfenalco; Dr. Juliet Rincón, Vice President of Strategy and Internationalization; and Enrique Diaz Infante, Chief Internationalization Officer. More recently, a faculty delegation spent two weeks on our campus to participate in an international quality seminar and English immersion program.

SUNY Broome has also welcomed students from Tecnológico Comfenalco to study and complete requirements for their dual degree program. The first group of 15 students majoring in Business, Information Technology and Quality Assurance came in 2013. Three Business majors attended last year, and another three are attending class this year, according to SUNY Broome's International Coordinator Claudia Beebe.

Students spend a full semester at SUNY Broome before returning home to complete their degrees, Beebe said.

Currently, Tecnológico Comfenalco's Chief Internationalization Officer is exploring opportunities to bring more students to SUNY Broome. Environmental science could be one program possibility, Beebe said.



Members of the Quality Executive Program for Teachers from Comfenalco



Colombian students in Fall 2015

The first group of Colombian students in 2013

Students from Comfenalco in Fall 2014

**SUNY Broome-Comfenalco
students at the recent
commencement ceremony held in
Cartagena, Colombia**

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