

# **American Council on Education**

## **Lessons Learned in Assessing International Learning**

**With funding from the U.S. Department of Education's  
Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education**

### **Project Description**

The American Council on Education (ACE) is pleased to formally launch “Lessons Learned in Assessing International Learning.” This three-year multi-institutional project seeks to advance the assessment of international learning with the long-term goal of improving student international learning at U.S. higher education institutions. This project is supported in part by an award of \$528,211 from the U.S. Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). This funding represents approximately 32 percent of the total project funding, with the remaining 68 percent provided through cost-sharing among ACE and the participating institutions

ACE’s work to date on internationalization shows that few U.S. higher education institutions have articulated international learning outcomes or established methods for assessing student achievement of those outcomes. Rigorous assessment, the key to improving student international learning, is long overdue.

The goals of this demonstration project are to 1) increase knowledge about assessing international learning at six project sites, 2) increase skill in implementing assessments and using assessment results at these project sites, and 3) enhance the knowledge and tools available to higher education for assessing international learning.

A group of six diverse institutions that have been working together with the support of a FIPSE preparatory grant, will continue working with each other, ACE staff, and an assessment consultant to accomplish these objectives. These institutions which reflect all four Carnegie categories to ensure project relevance across types include: Dickinson College, James Madison University, Kalamazoo College, Kapi’olani Community College, Michigan State University, and Palo Alto College.

The team will: (1) translate a set of agreed upon international learning outcomes into measurable performance indicators and rubrics; (2) conduct a coordinated effort to assess student achievement of these international learning outcomes, (3) based on these efforts, develop plans to improve student international learning at their institutions, and (4) disseminate lessons learned to the larger higher education community through workshops and a web-based resource.

Evaluation will examine the extent to which project faculty and staff at the six sites have increased their capacity to assess international learning and use the evidence from systematic assessment to formulate a plan for improved student learning. Evaluation will also address the extent to which the knowledge and skills base of members of the ACE Internationalization Collaborative—a network of over 57 institutions active in internationalizing their campuses—are enhanced by developed resources and assessment workshops presented by project participants during the three year project.