

## A Year of Education Abroad

ON NOVEMBER 10, 2005, the United States Senate passed a resolution, introduced by Senator Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) and Senator Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), declaring 2006 the “Year of Study Abroad.” A few days later the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program issued its final report that calls for the United States to set a goal of increasing participation by U.S. students in education abroad by fivefold in the next decade.

In response to these major events in the international education field, the editors of *International Educator* are launching a year-long series of feature articles on various aspects of education abroad. In this issue our feature article is based on a series of interviews conducted over several days this past fall with five leaders in the practice and theory of education abroad. Their insights will help to provide some of the framework for the remaining feature articles that will

follow in 2006.

To add additional depth to the discussion of education abroad in this issue, *IE* invited Senator Durbin, one of the members of the Lincoln Commission, to provide our readers with his insights on the work of the commission and his views on where education abroad could be headed in the future.

Finally, we also included in this issue an interesting piece in the Education Abroad column by Janet Hulstrand that examines the recent upturn in research designed to provide a stronger and deeper basis in data for the development of education abroad as a vital part of the higher education landscape.

### Also in this Issue

Our cover story “A Key to Your Career?” by Alan Dessoff focuses on the fact that although master’s degrees in international education are not new, having one today

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is becoming increasingly important for opening doors to the field. This trend has seen a rise in the number of international education and intercultural relations degree programs springing up on a multitude of campuses.

Another article of note in this issue is titled “Where Have the International Students Gone? Part II: A Look at the Baccalaureate and Associate Degree Sectors,” by William K. Cummings and Olga Bain. This article is a follow up to one that Cummings and Bain did for the March/April issue of *IE* that focused on undergraduate students. **IE**

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