INTERNATIONAL EDUCATOR NOV+DEC.

Policy and Competitiveness in the Global Marketplace

HE UNITED STATES appears to be losing out in the global market competition for the best and brightest students, especially in the sciences and engineering. As Stuart Anderson points out in our cover story, recent research shows that "the European Union (EU) granted 40 percent more Ph.D.s in science and engineering than the United States in 2001 and that the EU is projected to produce twice as many science and engineering doctorates as the United States by 2010."

Although the United States has regained some small amount of what was lost after September 11, 2001, the overall trend over the last several decades continues to be downward. Anderson argues very cogently that policy changes to improve the visa processes, increase marketing of the United States as the premier destination for science and engineering research, and better collaboration among government agencies and U.S. colleges and universities could go a long way toward making the nation more competitive in the education marketplace.

Also in this Issue

In our Voices interview in this issue, Christian Bode, secretary general of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), gives some excellent insights into how his country has worked hard to make Germany a top draw for students in the world market. His views on both the German and U.S. systems make a nice companion piece to Anderson's cover story.

Philip Altbach's article on the higher education system of the emerging Asian giant, India, provides a good perspective on where competition for the United States may be centered in the future—even if India's current system is yet in need of significant improvements. As Altbach notes, "India will need to create a dozen or more universities that can compete internationally to fully participate in the new world economy." But this kind of expansion is within India's potential, and could put that nation in an extremely strong position in the not too distant future.

Finally, Josef Mestenhauser and Brenda Ellingboe provide a thought-provoking piece on the need for international educators to develop a more effective and comprehensive conceptual foundation in order to take a greater role in education leadership. They argue that this is necessary for international education to effectively compete with other important university priorities in the U.S. system. "Top-level administrators may function at high levels of complexity domestically, but they do so relatively simplistically internationally and cross-culturally," they state. If internationalization is to become the standard at all U.S. institutions of higher learning, there must be a strong integration of knowledge about leadership, culture, and international education. ΙE

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Joanne Kurivan

1307 New York Avenue, NW Eighth Floor Washington, DC 20005 PH: 202.737.3699 FX: 202.737.3657 joannek@nafsa.org

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