

## What Does the Future Hold?

THE FRONT LINES COLUMN by Senator Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) that ran in *IE*'s January/February issue this year, argued forcefully in support of the work of the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program and the vital need for expanding the role of education abroad at U.S. institutions of higher learning. "As we become a nation whose citizens have studied in other countries, we will become more understanding of the rest of the world and less likely to minimize the perspectives of people in other countries," he said.

In mid summer this year—a year that the Senate designated as the Year of Study Abroad—Senator Durbin cosponsored the introduction of legislation that would make the recommendations of the Lincoln Commission a reality. To close out our series of feature articles dealing with various aspects

of education abroad in this special year, we have a feature article that examines what this legislation may mean to the higher education community, should it be passed by the next Congress.

The enormous expansion in the sheer numbers of students going abroad could require significant changes in the way colleges and universities provide programs for their students. Additionally, the emphasis on nontraditional destinations will require significant efforts by educators to interest students in these opportunities and the sources and structure of the funding for all of this will have far reaching implications.

Alan Dessoiff's article tackles all of this and more. Dessoiff asked a wide variety of prominent international educators to dust off their crystal balls and look at what the impact of this legislation might be on the future of the field. Their insights, based on years of experi-

ence, are worthy of our reflection as we look forward to this potential sea change.

**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE**—We have included a special supplement on insurance for international education in this issue of *IE*. It includes articles by Judith Green (author of NAFSA's *Medical Insurance for International Students, Scholars, and Their Families*) and Julie Friend (who handles health, safety and risk assessment issues at Michigan State University). They discuss specific cases when insurance has played an important role for U.S. students in far off study destinations as well as important information about the insurance needs of international students on U.S. campuses. The supplement also includes a listing of a number of insurance providers who specialize in international education-related policies and services. We hope you will find this information useful throughout the coming year. **IE**

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