

by Elaina Loveland

Brazil Bound

AROUND THE WORLD, virtually everyone knows that the United States has the largest economy in the world. But what some may not realize is that our southern neighbor, the Federative Republic of Brazil, is the second largest country (and has the second largest economy) in the Americas and is the fifth largest country in the world. In the last few years, Brazil has been on the radar as a growing country of interest for more international education exchanges and partnerships.

Our feature story, “Emerging Giant,” by the late Alan Dessoiff reveals how Brazil has become “hot” in higher education in recent years. Much of the recent interest in Brazil has been spurred by Brazil’s Scientific Mobility Program (formerly known as Science Without Borders), an initiative that aims to send undergraduates in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines to spend a year at a top foreign university. Since the program was launched in January 2012, more than 4,000 Brazilian students have arrived in the United States under its auspices.

And the interest in Brazil seems to be growing. As recently as February 2013 the Brazilian Scientific Mobility Program has expanded. Now, community colleges are getting involved. Led by Northern Virginia Community College, the Community College Consortium (CCC) is assisting the Brazilian Ministry of Education to expand the reach of its Scientific Mobility Program. The program will offer one-year undergraduate scholarships for Brazilian students to study STEM concentrations (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) at U.S. community colleges.

Community colleges across the country are realizing that their local communities aren’t just dealing with issues at the corner shop—global issues are now in their own backyards. International development—an area that colleges and universities have had a foothold in for decades—is now of interest to many community colleges. The feature article, “Local Goes Global,” by Christopher Connell shows how community colleges are now getting involved in international development.

Also in this Issue

This issue also includes the fifth annual intensive language supplement; this edition focuses on teaching languages with technology.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that I share the loss of a frequent *IE* contributor since 2005 and former *Washington Post* reporter Alan Dessoiff, who passed away in December 2012 at the age of 73. I worked with Alan in the fall on the cover story of this issue on Brazil, and he handed in the article shortly before his death.

Alan’s background as an investigative journalist has been an asset to *IE* over the years. He also wrote the series on NAFSA’s history for each decade for our 60th anniversary year in 2008. This loss is a reminder that it “takes a village” (of many talented writers) to help NAFSA chronicle the story of international education through the pages of *IE*. **IE**

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