



“Come Join Me Behind the Desk”

IN JANUARY 2013 I joined my university’s international recruiter on a tour to India. My hope was to connect with K–12 principals interested in piloting Mizzou Ed’s first Teach Abroad initiative. One of those principals was Mrs. Kalai Selvi at Vidyashilp Academy. We became instant mutual fans and that mutualism infuses all the collaborations we undertake. Mrs. Selvi contributes to the design, implementation and evaluation of Teach Abroad in India, she hosts our students at Vidyashilp, I lead professional development for her teachers and last year, we copresented at the Education and Leadership in Glocalization Conference in Phuket where she delivered a keynote address sponsored by our college. We continue to dream up opportunities to enhance

internationalization at our respective institutions and communities and co-mentor each other on all sorts of issues. On this particular visit, I was sitting across her desk when she said: “Come join me behind the desk.” What followed was a warm, collegial conversation about personal philosophies and motivations that lead to the emergence of the ethos driving our partnership. Removing the desk barrier, Mrs. Selvi conveyed her desire and commitment to lead as one across nations and cultures.

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YOU'RE INVITED! We invite you to submit your photos along with a brief (approximately 200 words) description of why these images are important in your understanding of a person, place, idea, or incident from your experiences in international education. The photos could be of a simple moment on your home campus involving international students, a major event in an exotic location, or anything in between. The editors of *International Educator* will run selections on this page throughout the year. Please contact us for submission details at magazine@nafsa.org.