

**THE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
FOR MICHIGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

ISSUE FIVE

*International Business and Education
Partnerships in Singapore and Indonesia*

MICHIGAN STATE
U N I V E R S I T Y



**Community Colleges for
International Development, Inc.**
Local Access * Global Opportunities

THE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR MICHIGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGES:

International Business and Education Partnerships in Singapore and Indonesia

The MSU-CIBER program was developed to provide faculty and administrators access to academic peers, to diverse intercultural experiences, and to innovative approaches to learning and problem-solving that enhance syllabi, internationalize curricula, and increase global understanding on campus. The contrasting southeast Asian cities of Singapore and Jakarta were selected to expose the participants to the dynamics of higher education, commerce, and culture in the increasingly important ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region of the world. As a business case, ASEAN also provides an interesting comparison to the European Union, particularly in light of the recent “Brexit” decision. Helpful to the planning process for this program is that key organizations in both Indonesia and Singapore are familiar with the unique U.S. community college model through existing partnerships, U.S. Department of State sponsored programs, and Fulbright scholarships. Interestingly, compared to the rest of the world, Indonesia sends the largest percentage of its U.S.-bound students to community colleges, providing even more exposure to the values of the two-year pathway toward earning a bachelor’s degree. For this reason, and others, the delegation of Michigan community college faculty and administrators received a sincere and warm welcome to both cities, and they departed with countless options for furthering engagement and exchanges with this world region.



AMINEF's Executive Director, Alan Feinstein, speaks to the group in Jakarta about exchange programs for Americans and Indonesians. He also shared his appreciation for the people and culture of Indonesia that he developed as far back as 1971 during his first of many study opportunities in the island nation.

None of the delegation's members hold positions focused solely on international programs, so it was important that prior to departure, they attended a one-day orientation workshop at MSU to understand the vast resources the CIBER offers for curriculum internationalization, such as globalEDGE, particularly in the context of Southeast Asia. The workshop also provided an opportunity for the group to meet each other and review the agenda for the program. For most, this was the first time to visit anywhere in Asia.

MONTCALM COMMUNITY COLLEGE www.montcalm.edu

Dr. Rob Spohr, Vice President of Academic Affairs

Dr. Gary Hauck, Dean of Instruction & Student Development

Key Interest Area: Sustainable partnerships for faculty professional development, study abroad, and internationalization of the campus.

JACKSON COLLEGE www.jccmi.edu

Ron Betzig, Director of Entrepreneurship

Tom Stewart, Business Faculty

Key Interest Area: Student and faculty partnerships for international business and entrepreneurship. Learning more about Asian culture to better accommodate international students and scholars.

MID MICHIGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE www.midmich.edu

Amy Fisher, Director, Small Business Development Center

Bruce Yuille, Business Faculty

Syed Uddin-Ahmed, Humanities Faculty

Key Interest Area: Partnership opportunities to enhance comprehensive internationalization efforts at the college and a better understanding of the Southeast Asian business culture.

MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE www.mcc.edu

Chef Matt Cooper, Culinary Faculty

Carrie Devone, International Business Faculty

Dr. Stephen Shubert, Dean of Business

Key Interest Area: Sustainable partnerships, particularly in business and culinary arts, to support MCC's expansion of international student services.

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE www.nmc.edu

Jane Zlojutro, Business Faculty

and Study Abroad Program Leader

Ed Bailey, Director, Technical Programs

Key Interest Area: Short term study abroad in business areas and partnerships focused on NMC's flagship technical programs such as aviation, drone technology, and water.

Singapore

The group spent the greater part of two days in Singapore with the Institute of Technical Education, or ITE (www.ite.edu.sg). Over the past decade, new leadership and significant government investment in ITE has taken the institution from one considered to be a student's "last resort" after high school to a global leader in delivering quality, market-driven technical and vocational programs. The delegations were fascinated with the institution's facilities and discovered a vast area of common ground in discussions that focused on career readiness, student success, and community outreach.

ITE's International Department is well developed and supported, and is charged with managing hundreds of similar visiting delegations per year from around the world. The office also works with faculty and administrators to boost its study abroad numbers and to expand the number of students and scholars that visit ITE for short-term programs. The delegation had an opportunity to visit the dorms that would potentially house visiting Michigan community college students and toured the training hotel on ITE's West Campus, which could also accommodate groups of faculty and administrators for seminars or other short-term programs.

ITE's hospitality program was in the spotlight as the delegation dined at the training restaurant, which did not disappoint. Chef Matthew Cooper of Mott Community College was welcomed "backstage" for additional tours and introductions, as he has intentions of incorporating a Southeast Asian experience into his curriculum at MCC. Other flagship programs the group visited included aviation, marine technology, robotics, and drone

"My understanding of Southeast Asia is now greatly expanded. We have developed, and are expanding, our International and Global Studies program at our institution. We can now infuse more teaching and learning objectives into our International Business courses, and promote this part of the world as a viable student exchange option."

STEPHEN SHUBERT,
DEAN OF BUSINESS,
MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

technology. Several delegation members had the opportunity to experience ITE's maritime simulation lab, sparking ideas for programs in Michigan, which, like Indonesia, specializes in programs that focus on water, a precious resource and way of life for both locations. In addition to considering collaboration on these specific program areas, the institutions discussed joint professional development opportunities to for faculty and administrators in the areas of teaching and learning and student success.

Several other factors make Singapore an attractive location to develop partnerships. It is a safe city that is easy to navigate. The subway system served the group well on the trip, and was extremely cost effective. While the culture is quite different than that of Michigan, language is no problem. The delegates had an opportunity over the weekend to experience the many cultural sites and activities that reflect the mix of Asian cultures and religions, all well represented and supported in Singapore. The investment in cultural preservation in

“This program allows faculty in rural areas to visit areas of the world they would never be able to visit, and internationalize curriculum at their rural colleges, which is needed badly. This program also allows rural colleges to build partnerships with other areas of the world to create student and faculty exchanges to help rural U.S. students get a taste of international business.”

ROB SPOHR, VICE PRESIDENT FOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, MONTCALM COLLEGE

Singapore is apparent and provides endless opportunities for students and faculty to experience a very different way of life as well as the fascinating intersection of the past, present, and future of this unique city-state.

Singapore's rail-based Rapid Mass Transit system is clean, comfortable, inexpensive, and easy to navigate. Program participants envisioned their U.S. students enjoying the opportunity to explore the city-state's many and varied neighborhoods this way. It also gives insight to a government that supports and encourages public transportation, as owning and operating a private car is

often cost-prohibitive. Traffic control in Singapore is nothing like it is in cities in neighboring countries, as the group witnessed immediately upon arrival in Jakarta.

Jakarta, Indonesia

Departing Singapore early on Sunday provided a block of time for the group to engage in cultural activities once in Jakarta. The group visited “Taman Mini,” a park that showcases the many different lifestyles and cultural attributes across Indonesia's archipelago. Taman Mini is not necessarily an international tourist attraction, so the American delegation became quite popular among the selfie-taking population. This interesting introduction to Indonesia provided a glimpse into the warmth and openness of its people.

The week of official meetings in Jakarta kicked off with an invitation from the Ministry of Education and Culture to tour SMK 27, a public technical high school in Jakarta. The Director General of the Ministry as well as the Cultural Attache from the Indonesian Embassy in Washington D.C. joined the U.S. delegation and all were treated to an exhibition of dance, music, and arts by the students.



The delegation tours ITE's aerospace programs.



Ed Bailey of Northwestern Michigan College with students of SMK 27, a public vocational high school in Jakarta. The delegation enjoyed a show of dance and traditional dress representing the many island cultures within Indonesia.

Segments of the program in Jakarta were planned with the assistance Sampoerna University (SU). Through its umbrella organization, Sampoerna Strategic, SU houses a two-year SACS accredited transfer degree, allowing greater access to higher education to Indonesians. The program has been delivered by Lone Star College (Texas) for the past four years and will be taken over by Broward College (Florida) in late 2017. The delegation had the opportunity to meet the staff of Lone Star, Sampoerna Strategic, and Sampoerna University, who were able to articulate some of the challenges and opportunities

for community colleges in Indonesia. Possible areas of interest to the Michigan delegation include opportunities for their students to take courses in Jakarta that could transfer to their community college or to another university. Likewise, as the general education curriculum is practically the same, faculty could partner, even virtually, to develop group projects with students from both Jakarta and Michigan.

Private universities comprise another segment of Indonesian higher education that is growing in importance and prevalence.

To this end, the delegation was welcomed by IPMI Business College, a relatively new private institution focused on international business education at the undergraduate and graduate level, and also by Tanri Abeng University, founded by a prominent Indonesian entrepreneur. These smaller, focused, and well-resourced institutions seem to be natural partners for U.S. institutions. In addition to English being the primary language of instruction, many of the faculty and administrators are U.S. educated themselves. Being private provides a level of flexibility to create programs that can best serve the special needs of partnering institutions, such as short term exchanges, faculty workshops, and other activities discussed during the visit.

In addition to the visits to and meetings with various higher education institutions, the group met with various leaders from relevant international business and education entities, each of whom provided insight into obstacles and opportunities for the group to engage in Indonesia. These included AmCham, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Global Chamber, USAID, and AMINEF (American Indonesian Education Foundation), which administers the Fulbright program in Indonesia. Leadership from these organizations provided perspective on the dynamics and nuances of Indonesia in the context of education and commerce, information that will bring international business curriculum to life in classrooms across Michigan. The meetings also inspired



Culinary students in ITE's hospitality program help prepare an impressive lunch for the visiting delegation in the institution's training restaurant.



ITE faculty member demonstrates the Drone Technology program.

members of the group to consider funding opportunities to continue to build on the relationships established during the trip. For example, a number of participants are working with in-country partners on projects to focus on for Fulbright Specialist Program applications. As the delegation was in Indonesia during the transition of the U.S. administration, there were a number of unknowns regarding priorities and future funding opportunities. This brought up a key consideration when developing international partnerships: leadership changes. While partnership programs often begin between two similarly-missioned and enthusiastic individuals, sustainability depends upon institutionalizing these partnerships, as both sides will inherently experience leadership and priority shifts over time.

One of the greatest outcomes of the program was the interaction among the Michigan delegation. Most of the participants did not know each other prior to travel, and since none hold positions

focused solely on international programs, they have not worked together in this capacity. Time in between meetings and activities was spent getting to learn more about each other and the needs and interests of their respective institutions. The knowledge sharing component is key to creating the momentum needed to further develop international initiatives across Michigan's community colleges.

“All business faculty could benefit from trips of this nature, providing them with insights into best practices of other countries and allowing them to develop professional relationships across national boundaries. This exchange of knowledge will provide improved professional opportunities for students and a richer understanding of our world.”

RON BETZIG, PROFESSOR,
JACKSON COLLEGE

What perhaps took this MSU-CIBER program from good to great was the ability to engage U.S. community college alumni as our guides and translators, now professionals back in their home cities in Indonesia. Their firsthand understanding of the U.S. model helped shape the experiences in Indonesia to be as useful as possible. They also provided an important perspective – the student's – as the delegation brainstormed how to be apply the knowledge and experiences to their classrooms and campuses.

SERIES EDITORS

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