

MISSION STATEMENT - INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

California State University, Fresno (CSUF) recognizes that international education is a fundamental part of general and professional studies in our contemporary world. Increasingly complex international trade relations, the urgent needs of developing nations, concern for the preservation of our global ecology and the constant goal of world peace require that today's students be concerned with the world at large, appreciate and respect cultures and nations other than their own, and graduate with skills necessary to live and work effectively in an inter-national context.

At a minimum, no student presently in college should be exempted from acquiring some sensitivity to the existence, diversity and dynamic interaction of the many cultures and forces at work in our world society. More positively, all students should be encouraged to contribute affirmatively as citizens of a world-wide community. For these reasons, CSUF's international mission is to serve as a center of international initiative and study through which its faculty and students enhance their understanding of other cultures and nations and contribute constructively toward a better future throughout the world.

In accepting a mission in international education, the University is not straying from its primary responsibility to serve the people of California and our more immediate region. On the contrary, we recognize that California and especially the economy and ethnic diversity of the San Joaquin Valley are intimately involved in international developments. Whether we look at the large, growing and richly diverse mosaic of ethnic groups living in and migrating to our region, the placement of our graduates in international businesses, or the importance of foreign markets for Valley agriculture, we recognize that the University is part of a community which extends well beyond our state and national boundaries. Moreover, as citizens of a global community, the people of California and our immediate region have a vital stake in global issues such as health, hunger, population, pollution, war and peace. The University and the citizens of the San Joaquin Valley have vital interests in international life, and we have important resources to share with the world.

In many ways CSUF is ideally suited to accomplishing an international mission. CSUF takes pride in the marvelous ethnic diversity of our region and our strong representation of international students on our campus. The greater Fresno area alone includes more than 75 identified ethnic groups. In addition, foreign student population on our campus represents many nations from throughout the world. The University is committed to employing the diversity we find in our own community and student body as an invaluable set of resources for international education.

International education at CSUF shall include:

1. Preparation of U.S. and foreign students for social, political and economic realities in a culturally diverse and interdependent world.
2. Integration of international perspectives throughout the curriculum in a manner that enhances our overall mission.

3. The hiring, retention and support of faculty skilled in international affairs, world trade and world cultures.
4. Maintenance of a strong and stable international student enrollment.
5. Involvement of international students on campus as valuable educational resources.
6. Academic and cultural experiences of CSUF students studying and traveling abroad.
7. Arrangements involving University programs and resources in technical and educational assistance abroad.
8. International faculty exchange.
9. Ongoing faculty and student research in international cultures, worldwide economy and technology, global ecology and world peace.
10. Active participation in worldwide cultural and scientific exchange and dialogue.

In adopting a mission in international education, CSUF expressly endorses the Guidelines for incorporating an International Dimension in Colleges and Universities (November 19, 1984) and the Statement of International Responsibility of Higher Education (August, 1981) promulgated by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Approved by the Academic Senate
Approved by the President

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