

Appendix B: Charge to the Internationalization Task Force

Northern Virginia Community College

To: Members of the Internationalization Task Force
From: John Dever, Executive Vice President
Date: 20 July 2005

Subject: Charge of the Internationalization Task Force

I write to appoint you to the Task Force on Internationalization at Northern Virginia Community College and to provide you with its charge.

Northern Virginia Community College has long been recognized as an “international institution,” with its large international and multicultural student body and its wide range of international activities. This is more the result of proximity to the nation’s capital and isolated efforts by individual campuses and by faculty and staff than the result of an intentional institutional design. However, with the declaration of its strategic goal for Excellence—which sets out “focal points of excellence in educational programs and services that will be benchmarked to being the best in the nation and strategic to building the college’s overall reputation for quality”—the College has committed itself to “leverage NOVA’s strength in serving students from around the world to create learning experiences that build greater global awareness across the college.”

The College’s international goal, therefore, directs us toward a broader social responsibility, to understand our role in the global community and to convene and educate students to address issues more globally and inclusively. Working in a more concerted manner as one institution, NVCC can improve its approach to international education, make it contribute to the benefit of the entire college community, and gain the recognition the College deserves.

To assist the College in this effort, the College has joined with the American Council on Education’s Internationalization Collaborative, a learning community of 60 institutions, which provides a forum for faculty and administrators to share ideas and help each other in furthering their international agendas. Members share information about institutional strategies and outcomes and key issues that need further research and advocacy. Within the Collaborative a select group of institutions is identified annually as the Internationalization Laboratory, which works closely with ACE over a 12- to 16-month period to further refine the ACE internationalization review process and advance collective knowledge about the issues surrounding assessment and comprehensive internationalization. NVCC has been selected as one of these institutions (as of this time the others are Pace University, University of Denver, and Boise State University; still in the decision-making process are Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and the University of Iowa).

NVCC will be the first community college to participate in the Laboratory. The internationalization review process involves

- Determining the present state of college internationalization
- Identifying challenges and obstacles
- Examining academic offerings and establishing clear learning outcomes
- Developing a strategic plan for the enhancement of international dimensions
- Identifying and setting the foundations for realizing faculty and student opportunities

The charge of the committee, therefore, is:

- To serve as the leadership team for the ACE Internationalization Laboratory;
- To carry out a review of the current state of internationalization at the College;
- To help frame a new conversation on internationalization within the college community;
- To develop a strategic plan for further internationalization of the College, to include
 - Recommendations for a college-wide approach to study abroad;
 - Recommendations for improving the number and quality of faculty and staff international professional development opportunities;
 - Suggestions for specific international grant initiatives.
- To recommend ways in which this international initiative can engage the College's large, resident multicultural student population;
- To recommend an organizational model to manage college-wide international affairs.

As you carry out your charge, please consult within and without the institution, ensuring that perspectives, needs, and aspirations of the wide variety of stakeholders are considered. As the duration of the College's engagement with the ACE Internationalization Laboratory is 12 to 16 months, the task force is different from many such groups in that the expectation is to complete this charge over this period with recommendations for action to be taken to the Administrative Council. If certain items within the charge can be addressed before completion of the full report and are ready for College action, please forward them separately for consideration.

ACE staff will conduct a site visit in late August to meet senior administrators and to conduct a roundtable discussion with the leadership team and key stakeholders, to define key questions and issues, to clarify goals, to build synergy among international activities, and to build support for the process across the College. The chairman, Paul McVeigh, will contact you in early August to launch the task force and to prepare for their visit.

This is an exciting initiative, one that will have a broad and lasting impact on the institution, and I thank you for your willingness to address it. Please let me know if I can be of assistance in your deliberations.