February 19, 2014

Wagaye Johannes
Project Director
Institute of International Education (IIE)

Dear Sirs:

As business and culture continue to transcend our state and national boundaries, our future workforce will need to think globally. We must focus on ways to prepare future graduates, regardless of their field, with the skills they will need to succeed in this new economic landscape and multicultural society. Study abroad gives students the unique opportunity to actively develop intercultural skills needed in today’s workplace. However, only one percent of Stephen F. Austin State University students studied abroad in 2011-12, a trend that has been the norm rather than the exception in the last 10 years. This may be the result of a majority of SFA students being ‘first generation’ in their family to attend college and perhaps not having the background or support to consider study abroad as a real option. Our goal for Generation Study Abroad is to bring the number of students who study abroad to 3% and begin to create a true study abroad culture for all students on our campus.

Specifically for the Generation Study Abroad commitment, we will focus on a target group of Honors students. The vision behind this idea is to “inject” into the SFA student community, in a relatively short time, a good number of students studying abroad who will talk about their experiences and encourage other students to follow them. Along with this targeted effort, we are also investigating complementary strategies such as establishing linkages to make study abroad a part of academic programs (i.e., supporting new reciprocal exchange programs in colleges), promoting study abroad provider affiliate programs that offer scholarships specifically for SFA students, and encouraging students to pursue an international certificate (of which study abroad can be a major component).

We have outlined a 5-year plan with different levels of financial assistance (in the form of tuition waivers) and expect that at the end of this period, and if capitalized properly, more SFA students will consider study abroad as a viable academic option. A survey carried out in summer 2012 found that 54% of the SFA students polled (n=222) would probably not study abroad because they could not afford it. Thus, the financial support aspect is one of the most important factors to address. Working with Honors students gives us a narrow target group to test different promotion strategies and abroad courses and to monitor progress. These students qualify for at least one scholarship, which will give them even more financial incentive to study abroad. In addition, Honor students will be good ambassadors of the study abroad experience among their peers and in other non-honors classes across campus. We hope that through coordinated efforts, this will be the beginning of a tradition and expectation of study abroad on campus.

Sincerely,

Baker Pattillo
President

www.sfasu.edu
Generation Study Abroad
Doubling the number of U.S. students who study abroad

Join the Commitment: A call to action from the Institute of International Education

Every student who wants to succeed in the global economy should study abroad. Yet less than 10% of U.S. undergraduates study abroad prior to graduation. This is simply not enough.

As we approach the Institute of International Education’s Centennial in 2019, IIE is launching “Generation Study Abroad,” a 5-year initiative to double the number of U.S. students studying abroad by the end of the decade. Putting IIE’s resources behind this campaign highlights our commitment to increasing study abroad that has been so much a part of our mission for IIE’s first 95 years.

Join the Generation Study Abroad Challenge: Colleges and Universities

To reach this target, the education community will need to join together to act swiftly and decisively.

Our goal is to identify at least 100 U.S. colleges and universities willing to double the number of their students studying abroad or significantly increase the participation rate of their students who study abroad at some point during their undergraduate career, and at least 10 U.S. colleges and universities who pledge to require study abroad of all their students. We encourage all colleges and universities to set an aspirational goal for the proportion of their students who participate in study abroad. The initiative will have a public element. In addition to the higher education community, we are seeking the support of high school teachers, study abroad alumni and students, as well as private sector partners and other educational organizations who will be able to contribute scholarships and resources.

Institutions that join the commitment agree to:
• Make a significant pledge to increase the number of their students who study abroad;
• Take actions to undertake new and expanded activities to enable more students to study abroad;
• Update IIE on an annual basis on their activities and progress towards meeting that target;
• Share strategies and best practices, which will be featured at IIE’s annual Best Practices Conference;
• Put a Generation Study Abroad badge on their websites;
• Join the conversation at #GenerationStudyAbroad.

IIE will support commitment members in the following ways:
• Award 5-10 grants (of approximately $10,000) per year to institutions who are making outstanding progress with their targets, to be used for study abroad scholarships for their students;
• Recognize commitment members on IIE’s website and press releases, and provide a special badge;
• Invite members to participate in annual meetings on doubling U.S. study abroad, webinars and National Conference Calls;
• Connect members with study abroad resources and tools to help your study abroad office;
• Provide a discounted eBook license for IIE’s new "A Student Guide to Study Abroad" that members can distribute to all incoming freshman.
Generation Study Abroad – Join the Commitment

To join the Generation Study Abroad Commitment, please complete and submit this form along with your letter of commitment to StudyAbroad@iie.org. Deadline for submission is February 14, 2014.

Step 1: Describe your Baseline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For Academic Year 2011/12 (reported in Open Doors 2013)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total student enrollment</td>
<td>12,903</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate student enrollment</td>
<td>11,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degrees conferred</td>
<td>2,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of students studying abroad (Undergrad, Grad, and Total)</td>
<td>Undergrad = 156, Grad = 15, Total = 171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Abroad Participation Rate (Undergrad, Grad, and Total, if available)</td>
<td>Undergrad = 1.3%, Grad = 0.9%, Total = 1.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Step 2: Set your Target

☒ For colleges and universities: My institution pledges to double or to significantly increase the number of students who study abroad. (For educational associations and other private sector organizations, see Step 3)

Targets can include: pledging to double the number of students who study abroad by the end of the decade; increasing the participation rate to a specific percentage; requiring all students to have a study abroad experience; etc. Important: Your target must be ambitious and represent a stretch for your institution, and it must contribute significantly to the overall goal of doubling U.S. study abroad.

Our Pledge (specify target): Increase study abroad participation to 3% of total enrollment

Step 3: Agree to Actions

☒ In addition to meeting the target listed above, my institution pledges to conduct new or expanded activities that help broaden participation in study abroad. These might include:

- Launch a new study abroad initiative or scholarship
- Provide an innovative new support service for students
- Help students engage internationally through service learning, research, or internships
- Make it possible for more underrepresented students to study abroad
- Engage study abroad alumni in new and creative ways
- For educational associations and private sector organizations, this can include contributing significant support through providing scholarships, producing materials, or offering services.

Step 4: Describe Your Pledged Target and Actions

Submit a letter of commitment, signed by your President or Senior International Officer, describing why your institution is joining the Generation Study Abroad commitment, the specific target you are setting, and how you plan to achieve the target by the end of the decade, as well as specific actions you pledge to take or resources you will contribute.
Contact information for your primary institutional representative for this commitment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Dr. Baker Pattillo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution:</td>
<td>Stephen F. Austin State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>1936 North Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City, State, Zip:</td>
<td>Nacogdoches, Texas 75962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bppattillo@sfasu.edu">bppattillo@sfasu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signature: [Signature] Date: 2-19-14

Submit this form along with your letter of commitment from your President or Senior International Officer to IIE by February 14, 2014 in order to be included in our press launch. Please email your materials to StudyAbroad@iie.org.

If you have questions, please contact:

Wagaye Johannes
Project Director
Institute of International Education (IIE)
Email: studyabroad@iie.org
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B. Patterson