

# AACC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

## General Information

AACC's international programs and services can help you lead the way to globalization. The president is the most common catalyst for globalization at community colleges.

- + The AACC Leadership Suite provides professional development in a variety of areas, including global and intercultural competence.
- + As a member service, AACC arranges and escorts members to high-level meetings at foreign embassies and U.S. government agencies.



The AACC Global Connections e-newsletter is a monthly publication that disseminates information about international news, events, and policies.

## International Students

The most common internationalization activity at community colleges is international student recruitment and support services. More than 700 community colleges are federally approved to enroll international students.

- + Nearly one-fifth (95,376) of all international students seeking an undergraduate education in the U.S. are enrolled at community colleges.
- + Approximately 49% of international students attending community colleges are enrolled at institutions in five states: California, Texas, Florida, Washington, and New York.
- + International students attend community colleges, in part, because the cost is generally less than half that for public 4-year colleges or universities.
- + Most international students attend community colleges to obtain the first 2 years of a postsecondary education, and plan to transfer to a 4-year college or university to obtain a bachelor's degree.
- + Upon completion of an associate degree, federal law allows international students to stay in the U.S. and work in their fields of study for up to 1 year.



**Nearly 50% of international students at community colleges come from only five countries: China, South Korea, Vietnam, Japan, and Mexico.**

## Study Abroad

In 2015, only 7,105 community college students studied abroad. The major challenges to study abroad that community college students face are:

- + Work responsibilities (more than 60% are employed full or part time).
- + Insufficient funds (more than 50% are low-income and receiving financial aid).



**Family responsibilities (17% are single parents, 63% are age 22 or older).**

## Immigrant Students

Because of their unique role within U.S. higher education, community colleges often serve large immigrant populations.

**7%** of community college students are non-U.S. citizens. International and resident-alien students contribute to the global and cultural diversity at community colleges.



For more information, contact AACC Director of International Programs and Services Wayne Wheeler at [wwheeler@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:wwheeler@aacc.nche.edu)

# THE VOICE OF U.S. COMMUNITY COLLEGES AT HOME AND ABROAD

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) is the nation's primary advocacy organization for the U.S. community college sector, representing more than 1,100 regionally accredited, 2-year degree-granting institutions and more than 12 million students (45% of all U.S. undergraduates). The U.S. government, foreign dignitaries, and various international organizations often call upon AACC for information and knowledge and recognize it as the gateway to reaching the sector.

The association:

- Serves as a liaison to various U.S. government departments and agencies.
- Participates in invitation-only, high-level dialogues between the U.S. government and other nations.
- Advocates for and facilitates new international opportunities for U.S. community colleges.
- Maintains relationships with foreign embassies, missions, economic and trade offices in Washington, DC, to facilitate open communication, provide consultation and development of opportunities for U.S. community colleges.
- Hosts and provides presentations to high-level international delegations and connects international visitors to individual U.S. community colleges based on mutual interests.
- Maintains relationships through memorandums of understanding with similar organizations around the world.
- Collaborates with other organizations on advocacy and to facilitate opportunities and share best practices.



## Global Connections Newsletter

AACC's Global Connections is a monthly e-newsletter covering international topics and opportunities. To subscribe, e-mail Wayne Wheeler at [wwheeler@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:wwheeler@aacc.nche.edu)

AACC provides consultation on global strategic planning as well as information about available resources (including those of its 31 affiliated councils). To obtain more information, contact Wayne Wheeler, director of international programs and services, at AACC: [wwheeler@aacc.nche.edu](mailto:wwheeler@aacc.nche.edu), or (202) 416-4514.