

Friends of International Education, Inc.  
Week of December 1

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1. Global experience currency in today's economy
2. Opportunities
3. Seeking School Partnership
4. IEC

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**\*\*Join the Friends of International Education TODAY. Individual and organizational memberships are available. For Membership information contact Judy Freund at [judy.a.freund@uwrf.edu](mailto:judy.a.freund@uwrf.edu)\*\***

[www.friendsofinternationaleled.org](http://www.friendsofinternationaleled.org)

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1. "Global experience: currency in today's economy"

The following article appeared in the November 20<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin State Journal by

Gilles Bousquet, dean of international studies at UW-Madison.

If there's one thing the current financial crisis has made abundantly clear, it's that "global economic independence" is no longer just a textbook term.

It's a headline-generating reality -- and not only in the international pages, but in the local business section as well. Wisconsin is home to multinational giants such as SC Johnson, Kohler Company, and Kikkoman Corporation. When they suffer an economic downturn, we all do.

This week, U.S. schools, colleges, and embassies celebrate the benefits of cross-cultural education and exchange during International Education Week.

And while it may have sounded obscurely academic when the U.S. Departments of State and Education designated this program in 2000, even they could not have predicted how dramatically and rapidly our need for language instruction, cultural exchange, and

international diplomatic and business education has grown.

But change brings opportunity. And in this case, the success of these interconnected industries depends enormously on communications technologies.

In fact, the production and management of knowledge -- whether in the form of business correspondence, blogs, or online news updates -- has become a critical economic resource in our post-industrial economy.

Information itself has become a product -- a global good, as it were. And our ability to contribute to this "knowledge economy" is the key to our economic security.

One need only reflect on our last presidential election, and the tremendous and simultaneous interest it held around the world, to understand this new infrastructure.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the whole world will watch our next steps -- in real time -- like never before. This presents fantastic opportunities for us to collaborate, compete, and contribute.

But how are we to react when, in 2006, the Department of Education reported that less than 10 percent of U.S. college students study abroad each year? In that same year, the U.S. Department of State declared Arabic, Farsi, Chinese, Russian, and Hindi as "critical" to the security and prosperity of our country -- but fewer than 1 percent of American high school students combined were studying these languages.

This is about more than staying competitive, or even relevant. Beyond our economy, global status, and security, there are other, everyday needs for cross-cultural understanding.

Whether because the world is flatter and smaller or simply because other regions are increasingly prominent on our television and computer screens, Americans now communicate with people across oceans, cultures, and bandwidths like never before. Or they

are trying to.

International education is about keeping that dialogue open -- indeed, expanding it.

At UWMadison we are committed to training global citizens and professionals by offering, for example, international opportunities, instruction in more than 60 languages, and cutting-edge global research.

Of all the perils that our next generations face -- the economy, the environment, global health threats, migration, national security -- which of these couldn't benefit from greater global understanding, cooperation, and communication?

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## 2. Opportunities

(The following opportunities are posted by request.)

### \*\*ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACADEMY

Do you know an international student or professional who would like to come to the USA to study English as a Second Language?

UW-Eau Claire's English Language Academy offers affordable, non-credit, English as a Second Language instruction to individuals whose first language is not English. Upon completion of this program, learners should be ready to pursue academic study at the university/college level, or begin professional work in the United States. Contact:

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire Continuing Education

<http://www.uwec.edu/ce/langCulture/index.htm> |

[ela@uwec.edu](mailto:ela@uwec.edu)

715-836-3636 or 866-893-2423

### \*\*The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia

(NCTA) is pleased to announce an NCTA Seminar on East Asia for Wisconsin secondary teachers. This 34-hour seminar offers teachers the opportunity to engage in study, analysis, and discussion of new scholarship related to Chinese and Japanese

history, geography, and culture. Content will address the National Standards in World History.

Eligibility: This seminar is open to secondary world geography, world history, world literature, and world art teachers who are teaching courses that include the study of China and/or Japan *at the time of the seminar*. Participation is limited to 20 teachers.

Seminar Location: The seminar will meet in Room 150 in the Science Center at Beloit College, 700 College Street, Beloit, WI 53511.

Seminar Dates: Saturdays: January 24 (8:30am-4:00pm) and April 18 (9:00am-4:00pm); and Wednesdays: February 4, 11, 25; March 4, 18; April 1, 15 (5:00pm-8:15pm). Two two-hour follow-up sessions in fall 2009 are also required. Attendance is required at all meetings.

For information contact Carolyn Temporelli at

[ctemporelli@hotmail.com](mailto:ctemporelli@hotmail.com)

**\*\*Work with an ELL teacher**

If you know of adult individuals in the Madison area ... or populations of individuals ... who would benefit from work with an ELL teacher. A certified teacher (completing a Master's in Teaching English as a Second Language) would entertain the prospect of assisting in some capacity. Contact Mary Grogan, Grade 3 Teacher, Chavez Elementary School (608) 442-2059

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### 3. Seeking school partnership

The following request for a school partnership was received from the DPI. If you are interested, please use the contact information below.

“The core goal the partnership is to maintain understanding of our student to be tolerant and respect to another nation even have a lot of difference like religion, culture and behavior. Therefore this partnership is very important to build this perception our student.

Thank you very much.”

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#### 4. WCSS/IEC

If you have not circled March 16 and 17<sup>th</sup> on your calendar, please do so NOW. That is the date of the International Education Conference (in collaboration with the WCSS). The theme is “Global Challenges and Changes” and featured speakers include Brian Steidle (author of *The Devil Came on Horseback: Bearing Witness to the Genocide in Darfur*) and Jeremi Suri (author of *Kissinger and the American Century*). For information or to register visit:

[www.education.wisc.edu/elpa/conferences/iec/index.shtm](http://www.education.wisc.edu/elpa/conferences/iec/index.shtm)

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