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Metro groups travel to China, foster educational partnerships

By Andrew Flohr-Spence
spencand@mscd.edu

Several groups representing Metro are traveling to China this summer, forming educational partnerships with Chinese institutions.

As part of Metro's recently announced globalization initiative, the four groups will meet with counterparts at several Chinese universities and attend management and trade conferences.

An administrative delegation that includes Metro President Stephen Jordan, Globalization Director Betsy Zeller, and other department chairpersons will visit Kunming and Chengdu, and discuss possibilities of cooperation between Metro and the Chinese institutions.

The areas of cooperation include exchange programs for faculty and students, and the possibility that Metro will be chosen as a location for a Chinese language center. Confucius Institutes, as they are called, are relatively rare, with only 100 or so worldwide.

The second delegation, a group of faculty and students representing Brand Spanking New – the student-run business partnership – will travel to Beijing May 15 to 26. The group hopes to develop partnerships with three universities there.

Assistant professor of marketing Mick Jackowski, who is traveling with the students, told @Metro, "it's time to train our students for working in a global economy."

Dianna Shantz and Linda Stroup, associate professors of nursing, will travel to China June 10 to 23 as part of the People to People Ambassador Program. They will attend the International Nursing Education and Leadership Conference, held in Beijing, Guilin and Shanghai.

The last trip planned is Zeller's visit to the Chinese Ministry of Education in Beijing, where she will learn more about the Confucius Institutes and how Metro will receive ongoing funds if they are chosen to hold an institute.

To find out more, or to read one of the ongoing travel blogs, go to <http://www.mscd.edu/news/china>.