F.Y.I.

F.Y.I. is a great resource to find local scholarships, national scholarships and college specific scholarships out there. If parents, advocates or students go to the site, they can sign up by creating a ‘profile’. Once a profile has been created, students will receive information about scholarship offerings. The specific information you give helps fastweb decide what kinds of scholarships you will be notified about (by e-mail). Essentially fastweb can do the scholarship searching for you. Fastweb also has internships and local job opportunities listed. Additionally, students can do school searches. Once you create an account with fastweb, you can save any scholarships or other searches in your own personal favorites file. If you have students who are asking about scholarship information, please refer them to the Career Services Center and also mention the fastweb.com website resource!

Rethinking Global Education to Prepare Students for Careers in a Global Workplace

Colleges are feeling the pressure from businesses to prepare ALL students for an increasingly international world; one that demands an understanding of other cultures, economies and political systems in order to be successful in a global economy. Traditionally colleges have left international education to study abroad programs that provide students with international education experiences, but they are now having to rethink international education and opportunities for a wider population of students. A recent poll revealed that 60% of employers reported college graduates were lacking the skills to be successful in a global marketplace. International Education is no longer only applicable to Humanities and Social Science majors, but Math, Science and Engineering majors also need to be provided with international education opportunities in order to compete for jobs in a international workplace.

Study Abroad programs are limiting in that a small group of students can take advantage of these educational opportunities. Students with family obligations and jobs need international education opportunities that allow them training without having to ‘take a grand tour of France or Italy’. Colleges are trying to meet those needs through a variety of delivery modes. They are using computer based technology to connect students to cultures and economies outside the U.S.. Colleges are also making connections with internationally based businesses and agencies to provide students with service learning opportunities to help prepare them for a global workplace.

A recent study stated that nearly one in five businesses were tied to global trade and services. Businesses are increasingly looking at potential candidates who have had international and cultural training or experiences. President of Vesta Corporation, Douglas M. Fieldhouse reported that in his multinational company, “cultural misunderstandings have sometimes slowed deals or led to tensions between co-workers from different backgrounds”. Fieldhouse says, “if I have two candidates, hands down, I’m going to pick the one who has an international perspective.”

Institutions across the United States are rethinking international/multi-cultural education. There are two current strategies: infusing international perspectives across the curriculum or requiring undergraduates to take a set of internationally focused courses as a graduation requirement. Another strategy is to require multicultural or international focused service learning projects of undergraduate students. Regardless of the method, colleges are trying to help students prepare for the global marketplace.

(for entire article see The Chronicle of Higher Education, October 2007; ‘Flat World’ Lessons for Real-World Students: Colleges take a hard look at how well they’re preparing students for careers in a global economy by Karen Fischer)