

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

WHEREAS, international education is a critical component of higher education in Missouri and contributes to the economy of the state and to a diverse college environment, enhancing both academic and extra-curricular programs; and

WHEREAS, international education is critical to promoting a broadened worldview and therefore preparing Missourians for life and work in the global economy and creating a diverse academic environment by exchanging scholars and students between countries and building the foundation for future business success; and

WHEREAS, higher education should emphasize international education, including foreign language instruction and study abroad, in order to ensure graduates have the cross-cultural skills necessary to function effectively in the global workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri General Assembly recognizes the social importance of cultural awareness, the need to promote study-abroad programs that serve Missouri students and the economic significance of international students who come to Missouri for educational opportunities provided by the state; and

WHEREAS, Missouri public and independent institutions of higher education and the Missouri Department of Higher Education, recognizing the importance of internationalizing curriculum and experiential learning, collaboratively established the Study Missouri Consortium; and

WHEREAS, the Study Missouri Consortium functions to support and enhance the capacity of member institutions, individually and collectively, to foster international experiences and cross-cultural competence among students, faculty, and citizens of Missouri and to facilitate communication, cooperation, and expansion of international educational activities and exchanges in the State of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the net contribution to our state's economy by international students and their families was estimated at over \$270 million in 2008-2009 and a strategy at the state and national level is needed to ensure America's status as a magnet for international students and scholars; and

WHEREAS, the economy of Missouri is inextricably tied to the rest of the world and state economic development depends upon a deliberate strategic development plan that includes recognition of the role of international education in all its facets; and

WHEREAS, heightened cultural awareness is critical to national interests and is a critical component of foreign policy, and Missouri's colleges and universities play a key role in developing foreign language and foreign-area expertise by promoting language study, study abroad, and faculty exchange programs; and

WHEREAS, the United States' national security and economic interests and competitiveness depend significantly on the country's ability to provide future leaders with the best education possible:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-fifth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that international education is an essential component of the future of the State of Missouri and the Missouri General Assembly supports and encourages students and faculty to promote international education as a part of curricular and extra-curricular life at the state's colleges and universities to ensure that students and future leaders are prepared to meet the challenges of a global society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for each institution of higher education in this state.