

IIE AND DENVER'S GLOBAL NEIGHBORHOOD Letter from the Director



Along with the many other changes our society and economy are experiencing, there's a quiet revolution in the relationships between companies and the non-profits serving communities in which these companies do business. Philanthropy is giving way to partnership. Charity is being replaced by investment. The line between corporate self-interest and good works is blurring.

The Institute of International Education (IIE) has attracted a good deal of corporate attention and partnership over the years. More than 25 years ago, we began a scholarship program on behalf of General Electric that continues to this day. Other well known names, like Lucent Technology, Cisco Systems, Adobe, Chevron Oil, also appear alongside IIE in many ground-breaking public-private partnerships tied to international education. (Please check out our main website, www.iie.org, for more information.)

Why do these companies come to the Institute and what keeps them coming back? They are committed to one thing, and that is the development of a globally competent workforce. They know that their future depends on a supply of well-trained, capable people who can work all around the globe. They see the Institute as the vehicle to develop current

and future leaders, employees, suppliers, contractors and even customers. In addition, they want their name to be associated with the leading reputation, global perspective and the high-minded values of an organization like IIE.

The same dynamics are at work here in Colorado. The Rocky Mountain Center of IIE for 60 years has promoted a global perspective in all that we do and we attract people with that same mindset. Our members, our board, our program participants, our speakers, our students and our visitors are all people whose imaginations and aspirations know no borders. Ours is a global neighborhood.

Companies who understand that their future will be found in this neighborhood are the ones that will have a future. If you work for such a company, I am eager to hear from you so I can show you how a partnership with IIE -- an investment in our global neighborhood -- can benefit both of us.

Karen de Bartolomé
Executive Director
Rocky Mountain Region

BECOMING A CULTURAL MENTOR

It often happens when we travel (even to different regions of our own country) that we feel confused about local customs. We sense something we're doing is not right, but what is it? Wouldn't it be nice to have something as authoritative as your handy pocket Langenscheidt to look up the answer before you really make a fool of yourself? That's when you wish for a cultural mentor.

The Institute of International Education hosts over 500 visitors each year in Denver through the International Visitor Leadership Program and another 500 international Fulbright students living in the 16-state Rocky Mountain region. With so many international visitors, ranging from students to mid-career professionals, we have plenty of opportunities for our members to become cultural mentors. Whether you invite them into your home for an evening of conversation, take them along on a hike or meet them through professional appointments, you can help these visitors feel more comfortable for their time in the USA

and serve as a bridge between two cultures. It's one of the most interesting aspects of being a member in IIE.

What makes someone a good cultural mentor? Many people are cultural mentors without even knowing it! While IIE members are diverse, they all share an interest in the world, in knowing other cultures, in getting to know people from outside our borders. Being curious, observant and caring are prerequisites for being a cultural mentor, as are good communication skills such as listening to both verbal and non-verbal language. Mentors invest the time to understand the other person's cultural background without prejudgment. While mentors cannot be motivated by personal gain, there are many benefits to doing so, such as gaining cultural proficiency, forming lifelong relationships, and enjoying the satisfaction of truly making a difference in someone's life.

Please join the nearly 600 members of IIE who have daily opportunities to find their inner "cultural mentor."

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DENVER WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL UPDATE

IIE/Rocky Mountain and its program, Denver World Affairs Council, hosted a luncheon on July 6th featuring Harriet Fulbright. Ms. Fulbright, who was in town for the Biennial of the Americas celebration in Denver, spoke to a group of about 120 attendees about her late husband's strong belief in international education and the crucial role it can play in the future. In the audience, there were IIE members and guests, current Fulbright students and alumni, professors, staff members and three groups from Latin America who were participating in the International Visitor Leadership Program.

The fall line-up for the Denver World Affairs Council should be just as exciting: In September join us for a discussion on Brazil with Larry Rohter; Paul Brinkley will join us in October to discuss revitalization in Iraq and Afghanistan; Dr. Jim Zogby will share insight into his involvement in a full range of Arab-American issues in early November; Peter David, the bureau chief of The Economist magazine, will be in Denver in mid-November to talk about the impact of US elections on foreign affairs; and in December Ben Wildavsky, author of *The Great Brain Race*, will discuss the changing landscape of global higher education.



"Harriet Fulbright and the staff of IIE at a recent Denver World Affairs Council event"

For more information about upcoming
Denver World Affairs Council events,
please visit our website at

<http://www.rockymountainiie.org>