

University of Kansas chancellor supports bill to boost U.S. participation in study abroad

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[摘要] March 14, 2007. LAWRENCE — University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway today urged Congress to pass new legislation to establish a national study abroad Fellowship program that would increase the number of students studying abroad to 1 million per year. Presently about 200,000 U.S. undergraduate students study abroad each year.

[关键词] study abroad

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KU ranks eighth in the nation among public research universities in the percentage of undergraduate students who study abroad. Just over a quarter of all KU students complete international study by the time they graduate.

The university, which received the Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization in 2005, has established a five-year goal to increase the number of KU students studying abroad from 26.2 percent to 40 percent.

"Study abroad gives students a great understanding that will help them compete and lead in a global marketplace," said Hemenway. "KU has excellent programs on campus to prepare students for the international economic and political environment they will live in. Study abroad is a vital component that greatly enhances their education."

The new legislation, the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2007, would create a national fellowship program. It would be administered by an independent entity and provide key support for necessary modifications at institutions of higher education to allow all college students the opportunity to study abroad. Simon, the late

The KU's objectives include ensuring that the demographics of the study-

abroad participation will reflect the U.S. undergraduate population and that an increasing portion of study abroad students will go to currently nontraditional study abroad destinations.

KU's Office of Study Abroad offers 100 programs in more than 50 countries. In addition, undergraduates who gain international experiences on and off campus are recognized through Global Awareness Program certification on their transcripts.

In February, KU alumnus Larry Horner and his wife, Donna Manning Horner, of San Jose del Cabo, Mexico, established a \$500,000 endowed scholarship fund for KU study abroad participants.

