



February 2, 2009

NKU making global outreach

Teachers from 13 countries visiting

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HIGHLAND HEIGHTS - Sixteen teachers from around the world are heading to the campuses of Northern Kentucky University and several high schools for a semester of professional development.

NKU's College of Education is administering the International Leaders in Education Program (ILEP).

"The ILEP Fellows program gives NKU and Northern Kentucky schools a marvelous opportunity to share our educational and regional culture with 16 outstanding international teachers from 13 different countries and to learn more about global perspectives from them," said Elaine Jarchow, dean of the NKU College of Education and Human Services.

The teachers came from Malaysia, Jordan, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Venezuela, Morocco, Senegal, Brazil, Algeria, Indonesia, Philippines and Ecuador.

John Causey, the group's coordinator, said the teachers will partner teach in Boone County, Dixie Heights, Connor, and Holmes high schools.

"They will also take at least two NKU classes," said Causey. "Here they have some flexibility but the classes mostly are aimed at furthering the Fellows' knowledge in a certain field, and/or teaching pedagogical techniques.

"They will also have many cultural experiences. For instance, they are participating in a home stay with local families, attending an NKU basketball game in the President's Box, visiting museums and listening to the Cincinnati orchestra to name just a few."

The teachers are hoping to learn things that they can take back home.

"My participation in this program will open doors for the best practices in education that can be adopted by our school back home," said Maria Hazele M. Pineda, who is from the Philippines. "We may be challenged with resources, overpopulation and facilities but we have high hopes for what we can best possibly become as a nation through education."

Moroccan Elmostafa Chahid said she has gained a deeper understanding and appreciation of her profession.

"The program has made me realize that great education equates great dedication and that every day of class counts because - though short - it can impact a whole life," said Chahid. "I have come to understand deeply that excellence in education is not just a pious wish but a must - a daily duty."

NKU has been increasing the presence of foreign students on campus.

During the last four years, NKU has hosted two month-long English language teaching workshops for 20 United Arab Emirates pre-service teachers, two Fulbright-Hays secondary teacher exchanges for teachers from Uruguay and Thailand, one visit for Fulbright-Hays principals from Brazil; and one Egyptian post-doctoral researcher visit.

