



HOWARD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL TO LEAD EXCHANGE AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN COLLABORATION WITH TWO BRAZILIAN UNIVERSITIES

H. Patrick Swygert, President of Howard University, has announced that the United States Department of Education has awarded Howard a major grant under its US-Brazil Higher Education Consortia Program. "I am pleased that Howard has been recognized by the Department of Education and Secretary Paige for its leadership in international exchange and curriculum development. This project will give increasing support to our desire to continue to be a leader in addressing tough issues of national and international significance," said President Swygert.

This program, led by Principal Investigator Orlando L. Taylor, Dean of the Graduate School, is funded for a total of \$420,000 over four years. It will be conducted jointly by the Graduate School and the Ralph J. Bunche Center for International Affairs, and coordinated by Professor Wayne Patterson. It will bring together a number of institutions, led by Howard University in the United States and Universidade de São Paulo in Brazil, to develop an academic program at the postbaccalaureate level that will investigate issues in international affairs, especially from the perspective of the African diaspora -- African Americans and Afro Brazilians. The other academic partners are Vanderbilt University in the United States and Universidade Federal da Bahia in Brazil.

In order to accomplish these objectives, the academic partners will develop a series of courses in international studies that incorporate the perspective of the African diaspora. These courses will be suitable to be used in a number of master's and doctoral level programs and transferable among any of the partner institutions. They will build upon the existing relationships and exchanges, especially between Howard University and the Universidade de São Paulo through the SYLFF endowments provided by the Tokyo Foundation, and provide for numerous and varied student exchange opportunities. A major academic conference exploring the subject will be planned.

The curriculum will also include one electronically-delivered course, with materials developed in English and Portuguese so that it may be simultaneously offered by the four partner institutions.

During the grant period, approximately fifty students will have the opportunity to study for at least one semester at one of the partner institutions in the other country.

Each partner has a unique contribution to the consortium: Howard University, as the only Carnegie Foundation Doctoral/Research University-Extensive university that is also a historically black university, has a long history of research in African diaspora issues. Vanderbilt University has one of the best programs in Latin American and Brazilian studies in the United States. Universidade de São Paulo has great expertise in economics and regional development. Universidade Federal da Bahia has a unique center, A Cor da Bahia, in the study of race relations in Brazil.

The US-Brazil Higher Education Consortia Program is a component of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE).