

Workshop 5: Fostering International Collaborations

Moderators:
Maria Boile and Thomas Skalak

Attendance: 36

Background

- The nation's global competitiveness depends heavily upon the preparedness of our workforce.
- 21st century science and engineering is global, and a diverse, globally-engaged, workforce is necessary for our nation to retain its technological edge.

Comment from Industry attendee:

“ Only the Catholic Church and Coca-Cola are in more countries than Siemens”!

So....

Companies already understand the value of international partnering

Question 1

- There is some "tension" between the PFI concept of "innovation" that affects a local region primarily and new "international" programs that drive innovation at a broader scale. What are the most important basic principles for establishing and sustaining an international program?

What are the most important basic principles for establishing and sustaining an international program?

- Involve students early on (freshmen with CEOs)
- Listen to the partners' needs *
- Learn from each other
- Mutually beneficial *
- Common or compatible interests of individuals
- Understand cultural differences
- Face time *
- Manage IP, export control, license system
- International outreach can produce regional economic growth (no tension) *

Question 2. Situations or characteristics in which a rapid global network growth makes sense versus a local U.S. program

- Things that are local can become global and vice versa (local and global becoming indistinguishable)*
- In some high-tech industries there is still some skepticism about exporting key know-how
- US-Canada and US-Mexico seem to offer good test beds for international programs
- Exploring international differences can produce new US business opportunities *
- Regulatory environments – GMOs US vs Europe
- The boundaries between disciplines can be more difficult than between nations

Question 3. Scientific and technological areas that could most positively improve global human freedom and dignity

- Offer the choice of education *
- Orphan technologies/processes – make available to others
- Regionally “appropriate” (to people and culture) technologies (cheap solar powered water pumps, sustainable housing) *

Consensus High Priority Areas

- Student Exchanges for Internships *
- Faculty/Staff Corporate, Students Meeting (Moving bodies from place to place) *
- Collaborative design projects with no exchanges (i.e. the Netherlands)
- Connectivity to new markets, new knowledge, new ideas *
- Developing a common language
- Developing a common curriculum