

# Using an External Advisory Board to Support Internationalization

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## **Texas A&M is among the 4 largest US universities**

- Profile of current students
  - 68,600 students
    - 53,672 Undergrad (78%)
    - 14,931 Graduate and Professional (22%)
- Students primarily from Texas (94% of undergrads)
- International Student Profile
  - 5915 International students (8.6%)
    - 1215 Undergrad (2.2%)
    - 4700 Graduate and Professional (31%)

## Very active in global experiences for our students

- Last year 5539 students went abroad (3848 Open Doors data)
- #1 public university in USA for Study Abroad (Open Doors)
- Students visited 102 countries last year
  - 69 to Canada
  - 349 to Mexico



## Highly Intensive Research Agenda

- > \$900 million (US) research expenditures
- Faculty doing research in over 120 countries around the world
- Global research footprint
- Over 45% of research publications include international co-author
  - Latin America
  - European Union
  - Pacific Asia
  - Middle East
  - Africa
  - Antarctica



# International Advisory Board



**25 years of Globalization at Texas A&M University**



# International Advisory Board



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY



**And 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Texas A&M's first research project with Mexico**

## The International Advisory Board:

- Created 25 years ago
- Comprised of ~40 members from business, government, higher education
- Some are alumni but majority are not
- Nominated by other board members, distinguished alumni, university administrators and deans

## International Advisory Board members

- Serve in advisory capacity to university leadership
  - President and Provost
  - Chief International Officer
  - Deans
  - Department Heads
- Identify strategic opportunities for new partnerships
- Generate contacts within government, business and education sector of other countries
- Identify and create internships, student placements in their countries of expertise



## International Advisory Board members

- Participate in the University's international activities
- Build an international network for the University
- Promote awareness of international programs and issues
- Help the University build strategic partnerships
- Proposed new curricular initiatives
  - International Affairs, International Studies, Certificate program in National Security

## **Enhance student experiences by**

- Direct mentoring of students on building international portfolio
- Interact with students groups that have international focus
- Provide financial resources to select students
- Provide guest lectures to enhance curriculum
- Oversee student international awards

## How to recruit members to an International Board

- Leadership must express need and purpose for the Board
- Agenda driven
- Keep ongoing communication
- Build a reporting structure to engage but keep control
- Realize that most ideas are not useful and they have little understanding of higher education
- Realize understand curriculum but may have great ideas

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- **Members want to be useful**
- **Must have mission for them**

## **How to begin building a Board**

- Begin with international alumni or international organizations in your community
- Consular corp, expat community, local corporations
- Multinationals that recruit your students or sponsor research
- Use your own faculty as well

### **But begin locally**

- Use this network to build your first board then use their contacts to expand beyond university and local membership
- Majority of our board were never Texas A&M students

# Soltis Center for Education & Research in Costa Rica



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY

Gifted by Wanda & Bill Soltis'55 & Family



- Opened in 2009
- Over 2000 students
- Hundreds of faculty research trips





# Global Partnerships - Mexico

## 2015 Hacienda Santa Clara

San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

Built by Board member Pablo Marvin

