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The West Virginia State College Office of International Affairs Marks its Fifth Year

Since receiving a United States Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language grant in 1998, WVSC has undergone a major expansion in its international programs. The Office of International Affairs (OIA) open during the fall 1998 as a result of this funding. Dr. James J. Natsis was hired to manage the office, coordinate projects, teach one course per semester with an international perspective, and to seek further funding. Major accomplishments in WVSC's efforts of internationalization in the last five years include:

- Received 3 nationally-funded and 1 state-funded grants— 1. (\$125,000) United States Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language (1998), 2. (\$250,000) International Development Programs—United Negro College Fund (1999), 3. (\$60,000) Fulbright-Hays (2002), and 4. (\$1,500) West Virginia Humanities Council (2003). Several WVSC faculty have received Fulbright scholarships as well.
- Created a Minor in International Studies.
- Organized group travel for students and faculty to the following countries: Belize, Benin, Canada-Québec, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Egypt, England, Jamaica, Mexico, South Africa, and Venezuela.
- Organized two faculty development seminars to Benin and Costa Rica.
- Launched the international newsletter *Le Journal*.
- Held three annual International Banquets and an International Luncheon.
- Hosted three Middle States African Studies Association (MSASA) conferences.
- Opened the only U.S. official college-based depository of Benin publications in the United States (June 2002).



James Natsis and Tee Ford-Ahmed

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