

North Seattle College (NSC) and RMIT University of Australia Global Work Integrated Learning Project

A unique partnership between North Seattle College's Bachelor of Applied Science in International Business (IB B.A.S.) program and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) in Melbourne, Australia, brought faculty and 15 students from RMIT to campus June 3-10 to finalize projects and present recommendations to industry clients.

Over the past year the IB B.A.S. program has been working with a logistics program at RMIT to design and deliver a collaborative environment called Global Work Integrated Learning (GWIL). During the summer of 2015, Graham Airey, Head of School, Vocational Business Education, RMIT University, met with Andrea Insley, Executive Director, Global Initiatives - Seattle Colleges. The proposed project was approved by Warren Brown, North Seattle College President, and Kristen Jones, Vice-President, North.

Starting in August 2015, Honorio Todino, IB BAS faculty member from North and David Graham, faculty member of RMIT worked together to design and teach their classes with coordinated curriculum and, most notably, formed groups of RMIT and NSC students to work together on industry projects. Three projects involved research around the Haikou Free Trade Zone in China and how potential industry clients might benefit from utilizing the Free Trade Zone. A fourth group researched and presented a plan for CUSH-EVO, a Seattle start-up company that imports a proprietary shoe accessory. The fifth and last company researched and presented a strategy to bring Direct Fire Supplies (DFS), a fire safety equipment company in Australia, into the USA market.

The collaboration culminated in the presentations made to industry here in Seattle. Honorio said, "International Business today is mainly conducted by project teams working across borders using Internet collaboration tools. The GWIL project provided a unique opportunity to students to practice this first-hand working on real industry situations. Faculty and administration in North also learned to collaborate with international partners in the same way."

Tuesday, June 7, North welcomed RMIT staff and students at an afternoon reception, followed by collaborative group work among the students and preparation for their presentations. The next day the group work continued, with final joint presentations to industry members. The industry clients were Monica Park, chair of the IB BAS Advisory committee, CEO of Global Resource Group and representative agent of the Haikou Free Trade Zone in the US, the founder of CUSH-EVO Carlene Pride, and Mr. Maher owner of DFS Australia. The presentation to DFS was delivered in real-time via Skype.

A judging panel, consisting of Laura Hopkins, Dean of BEIT at NSC; Monica Park; and Prarthana Shyam, a Global Supply Chain Manager at Industrial Revolution here in Seattle and an alumnus of RMIT University, evaluated the students. The winning group received small prizes from RMIT and NSC.

It was not all-work-and-no-play for the Melbourne guests during their visit to the Pacific Northwest. RMIT students and some NSC students participated in an all-day scavenger hunt starting at Pike Place Market. The Australians also made a visit to the Boeing Flight Museum, had a tour of the Microsoft campus and took a day-trip to Bremerton by ferry.

Jesse Cooley, program manager of IB BAS; Bob Bunge, IT faculty - North; and Tim Wallis, program manager of RMIT Australia shot videos for putting together short advertising clips to highlight the projects and promote North and the IB B.A.S. program. The videos focused on the welcome reception, students working in groups, and final presentations. Warren Brown delivered a filmed interview for Tim. Melissa Mixon, Director of Marketing and Public Relations – North, Honorio Todino and Tim Wallis took photos. Jesse Cooley created a Google doc drive to all groups to put their videos and pictures so all can share the media.