
Latitudes: Who gets an international education?

1 message

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Latitudes



By *Karin Fischer*

In this week's Latitudes: A win for undocumented students. Iran threatens U.S. branch campuses in the Middle East. A gubernatorial candidate wants foreign students to pay \$1 million in tuition. But first ...

UNEQUAL ACCESS, COMPOUNDED

Community-college students are less likely than classmates at four-year institutions to have a global experience — less than 2 percent of Americans studying abroad are at the associate level, the latest Open Doors report shows.

Access is not equal among community colleges, either. A new study finds that institutional characteristics, such as size, mission, and finances, suggest whether a student will have the opportunity to take part in international-education activities.

Colleges that are wealthier, have higher transfer rates, and offer both associate and bachelor's degrees are more likely to have study-abroad programs and campus cultural events and clubs, according to the Community College International Research Initiative at William & Mary. And researchers found a statistically significant

relationship between institutional size and the likelihood of offering all five types of activities studied. (The others are international-student enrollment, virtual-exchange programs, and global certificates or diplomas.)

	Study Abroad	International Student Enrollment	Virtual International Exchange	Certificate/Diploma in Global Learning	On-campus Cultural Events and Clubs
Mix of bachelor's and associate's degrees awarded	+	+			+
High transfer rates to four-year colleges	+				+
More than half of degrees awarded in career and technical programs				-	
State Appropriations Per Student	+			+	
Local Appropriations Per Student	+		+		

Total Enrollment



Primarily offering career and technical, or CTE, degrees made colleges statistically less likely to have global-certificate programs. That could be short-sighted because employers value globally competent workers, said Melissa Whatley, an assistant professor of education who organized the research group.

“There’s still a perspective out there among many faculty, staff, and administrators that students in CTE programs do not want or need exposure to global or international topics in their coursework because they are going to school to learn a specific skill like automotive technology, cosmetology, or welding,” Whatley said.

But enrollments aren’t going to grow overnight, and sudden taxpayer windfalls are unlikely. Given the near-immutability of many of the characteristics, isn’t it a given that certain types of community colleges will provide students with little in the way of international education, I asked Whatley.

Not necessarily, she said. For example, lower-enrollment colleges could form partnerships with organizations or other colleges to collectively start study-abroad or virtual-exchange programs, banding together to increase capacity.

“Colleges need to be strategic in how they advocate for and strategize around international education on their campuses,” Whatley said.

- Read more about the research findings [here](#).
- I [wrote](#) in an earlier newsletter about strategies used by community colleges that have had international-education success — including joint projects and study-abroad programs tailored for vocational students.

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IRAN THREATENS AMERICAN BRANCH CAMPUSES OVERSEAS

Iran is threatening to attack American colleges in the Middle East in retaliation for military strikes on campuses within Iran.

Twenty campuses in the country have been bombed by American and Israeli forces since fighting began a month ago, Iranian news agencies report. Images posted on social media show a building at the Iran University of Science and Technology that was reduced to [rubble](#).

The Gulf region has been a hub for overseas branch campuses, according to a recent [census](#), with 39 in the United Arab Emirates and another 12 in Qatar — including outposts of prominent American institutions such as Georgetown, Northwestern, and New York Universities. Most of the colleges had already moved classes online because of the war, and some have made all campus operations fully remote.

A \$1-MILLION TUITION BILL?

“On day one, my first executive order as governor next January is to raise tuition on all foreign students to \$1 million a year.”

— James Fishback, Republican candidate for governor in Florida

On Tucker Carlson’s [podcast](#), Fishback said that international students are replacing American students and sky-high tuition would reduce their numbers. “When they can’t pay, they’re out and our kids are back in,” he said. He also argued that in-state students pay more in the long run for their education — although international students often pay full freight, Florida families’ taxpayer dollars support public colleges, he said.

Fishback is attracting no more than 5 percent of the vote in [opinion polls](#) of Republican gubernatorial primary candidates, so the chance that he will be issuing executive orders is pretty slim. Still, his comments are a reminder that politicization of international students has spread to the state level.



The Chronicle's Women Leading Change Program

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AROUND THE GLOBE

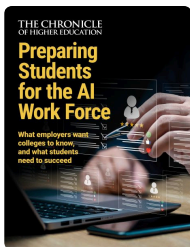
A federal judge in Minnesota dismissed a [challenge](#) to a state policy that provided lower in-state tuition rates to some undocumented students. The ruling was a setback for the Trump administration, which has used a [strategy](#) of filing lawsuits to end similar benefits in a half dozen other states.

One in four scientists said their work had been “[significantly impacted](#)” by a new policy from the National Institutes of Health that [prohibits](#) grant recipients from making subawards to institutions outside of the United States.

Geopolitical tensions are affecting China’s approach to international-research collaboration, leading scientists to [shift away](#) from projects with counterparts in the United States and Europe.

More young people in India are earning a college degree, but a quarter fail to land a [permanent salaried job](#) within a year of graduation.

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Preparing Students for the AI Work Force

Today’s colleges are tasked with preparing their students to enter a work force that has been reshaped by artificial intelligence. [Order this report](#) for insights on what employers want — and what students need to succeed.

AND FINALLY ...

The match-ups for college basketball’s Final Four have been set — and the games will have an international flair. Five of 15 players on the University of Illinois men’s

team, which faces the University of Connecticut, are from overseas, including three from Croatia. More than half of the roster for the University of Arizona, which takes on the University of Michigan, hails from another country.

Interestingly, there are fewer foreign-passport holders on the women's side. Three of the four teams still in the playoffs — Connecticut, South Carolina, and UCLA — have three international members. The University of Texas has just two.