



**Association of International Education Administrators**  
*Leaders in International Higher Education*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS (AIEA) PRESENTS  
INAUGURAL INNOVATION AWARD IN INTERNATIONALIZATION TO SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY**

At the 2015 Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) Conference in Washington D.C., the inaugural Innovation Award in Internationalization was awarded to Saint Louis University, nominated by Dr. Diana Bartelli Carlin, Professor of Communication and Associate Vice President for Graduate Education and International Initiatives. This new award highlights exceptional programs, projects, or initiatives aimed at advancing internationalization and directed by Senior International Officers (SIOs) on their respective campuses. The categories that can be used for these programs are based on the American Council on Education's six elements of comprehensive internationalization (Articulated Institutional Commitment; Administrative Structure and Staffing; Curriculum; Faculty Policies and Practices; Student Mobility; Collaboration and Partnerships). Katie Gauthier Donnelly accepted the award on behalf of Saint Louis University.

The award commends the St. Louis University Association for International Debate, initiated in April of 2014. A collaborative effort coordinated through the university's Center for Global Citizenship (CGC), the project links students, faculty, and community members in St. Louis with those at remote universities in a networked, interactive and live program of debate on international topics, utilizing the structure and format of the British Parliamentary Debate system.

In 2014, this innovative program was held during Black History Month and involved collaboration between the CGC, the Inter-Cultural Center, International Studies, and several universities in Kabul, Afghanistan. Students discussed and debated whether the U.S. model of affirmative action was suitable for extending rights to women and minority groups in Afghanistan. These debates were judged by individuals on both sites in collaboration through Skype sessions.

For International Education Week, the team fostered a debate between St. Louis University students in residence, and a debate team from the St. Louis campus in Madrid, Spain, on alternative health systems. Future debates are planned with universities in Canada, Germany, and the Philippines, China, India, Afghanistan, and the United Kingdom.



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This program is highly innovative in the field of international education, and the project is replicable with minimal costs at other universities.

Dr. Darla Deardorff, Executive Director of the Association of International Education Administrators stated that "AIEA is pleased to recognize Saint Louis University as the inaugural recipient of this Innovation Award which highlights the importance of inspired leadership in the field of international higher education."

*Founded in 1982, the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA), hosted at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, is a professional membership organization composed of institutional leaders representing over 300 institutions engaged in advancing the international dimensions of higher education.*

*For additional information, visit [www.aieaworld.org](http://www.aieaworld.org) or contact AIEA at [aiea@duke.edu](mailto:aiea@duke.edu) or 1-919- 668-1928.*

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