



Association of International Education Administrators
Leaders in International Higher Education

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Contact: AIEA Secretariat
secretariat@aieworld.org
+1 (919) 893-4980
www.aieworld.org

AIEA Recognizes Pima Community College with 2019 Innovation Award in Internationalization

San Francisco, CA (January 22, 2019)—At its 2019 Annual Conference, the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) presented Pima Community College with the Innovation Award in Internationalization in recognition the innovative project “Connecting Bi-National Communities beyond the Borders of Opportunity for All.”

The AIEA Innovation Award in Internationalization highlights exceptional programs, projects, or initiatives aimed at advancing internationalization. As colleges and universities around the US increasingly recognize the importance of pursuing internationalization as a distinct and intentional project, the need grows for successful and specific models of programming at all levels. Many international education leaders work tirelessly and creatively to realize a vision for internationalization that best meets their institutional needs. Some of this work is not only effective but enlightening, worthy of emulation by others who are either new to the field or value creative approaches to their work.

Pima Community College’s project exemplifies the role of international education in addressing today’s issues by starting locally, building on the mission of a community college rooted in its community, while also impacting international relations. Pima Community college partnered with the Consulate of Mexico in an initiative that has generated study abroad projects, international workforce development contracts, bi-national engagement, and increasing international student recruitment.

PCC is located in Tucson, Arizona, where Hispanics comprise 43 percent of the total population. 89 percent of them are of Mexican ancestry, while half of them are first- and second-generation immigrants. Furthermore, Pima County, where Tucson is located, has been federally designated as a refugee resettlement area. In this context, many new Americans, immigrants, and minorities know that borders and walls are not only physical, but also linguistic, political, cultural, and socio-economic.



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In order to take concrete actions based on the principle that education is a human right for all, the college's partnership with the Consulate of Mexico elaborated a strategic plan which includes the following projects:

- A scholarship program that focuses on helping financially disadvantaged, immigrant and DACA students.
- E-STEM: Entrepreneurship and Science in Action.
- Educational Orientation Window/Ventanilla de Orientacion Educativa(VOE).

Developed in close collaboration with the staff of the consulate, these projects have benefited immigrant students, including other Americans of Mexican, Native, and Latino origin.

The Awards Committee considers this project an illustration of the benefit of partnering with international stakeholders and involving them in the educational and social mission of the institution. Together, these partners have leveraged resources and turned a crisis into an opportunity.

AIEA congratulates Pima Community College for this project and especially for its effectiveness, its impact on the lives of students and community members.

About AIEA:

The Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA), a membership organization formed in November 1982, is composed of institutional leaders engaged in advancing the international dimensions of higher education. The purposes of the Association are to:

- Provide an effective voice on significant issues within international education at all levels,
- Improve and promote international education programming and administration within institutions of higher education,
- Establish and maintain a professional network among international education institutional leaders,
- Cooperate in appropriate ways with other national and international groups having similar interests.

For additional information, visit www.aieaworld.org or contact AIEA at secretariat@aieaworld.org or +1 (919) 893- 4980.

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