Bridges Across our Public Institutions: Vietnam

The project is designed to assist faculty in Midwestern two-year public colleges to create curriculum, foster collaboration, and establish exchanges that will provide a deep level of understanding about Vietnam. The faculty will become the conduits for educating students, business community, government officials, and service to Vietnamese immigrant communities.

The participating faculty will become part of a three-phase project: a) preparation readings, workshop and pre-seminar orientation; b) overseas seminar travel and project development; and c) post-seminar follow-up and implementation of curriculum & professional projects. The faculty represent nine colleges and the disciplines of visual arts, foreign languages, communications, humanities, psychology, literature, political science, history, mathematics, geography, media and economics. The study tour will last about five weeks (approximately, two weeks in South Vietnam, two weeks in North Vietnam and one week in Central Vietnam).

There are eight major objectives:
1. To increase the number of faculty who can integrate an understanding of the place, people and cultures of Vietnam through reading, travel, curriculum modules and relationship building with faculty, administrators, business leaders & government officials from Vietnam.
2. To expand the international content of the college's curricula through the integration of the faculty's curriculum modules into current humanities, social and natural sciences courses.
3. To increase the number of faculty who use an on-line software program such as BlackBoard or Web-CT as an interactive learning tool to improve and enhance students' learning about Vietnam through discussion and projects.
4. To use the aforementioned on-line software to share curriculum work with other colleagues/colleges in the consortium or via the MIIIE website or creating their own websites using FrontPage or DreamWeaver software.
5. To offer short-term training to interested business, government and community leaders regarding economic, political, cultural and other aspects of Vietnam.
6. To facilitate collaborative projects and exchanges with Vietnamese educational institutions, businesses and government agencies.
7. To disseminate information with presentations in regional and national conferences.
8. To expand the understanding and knowledge on Vietnam with the development of a curriculum handbook for secondary and post-secondary institutions free of charge.