



The Internationalization of JCCC

Carolyn Kadel is seen here with Dr. Charles Morrison, president of the East-West Center, at a conference in Kansas City in 2004.

In 1975, Carolyn Kadel, professor/director of International Education, started at JCCC, teaching what was then called *Social Sciences I* and *II*.

“In 1975, it was still possible to consider yourself an educated person or prepare for a career without understanding other cultures,” Kadel said. “Today, it’s impossible. Our students may end up working in China, but even if they work on College Boulevard, they need to understand people from other countries.”

Kadel assumed the role of director of International Education in 1985. She credits faculty and administrators for the support of International Education from its beginning in 1980, the result of a grant to expand international class content awarded to JCCC under then-president Dr. John Cleek, to the present.

Today, JCCC’s International Education encompasses college activities from credit and continuing education classes to the performing and visual arts. JCCC teaches 70 sections of eight foreign languages each semester and at least 70 courses with international content spanning multiple disciplines. Students have the opportunity to study for a semester in one of 31 countries. Shorter overseas summer and intersession programs are offered — nine opportunities in 2010-2011.

“Studying abroad is important on so many levels — a philosophical/educational level and a practical level,” Kadel said. “Certainly in terms of broadening their perspective on

the world in which they live and issues that are going to be important during their lifetime there is nothing for students that beats studying abroad.”

JCCC’s six partner colleges from around the world send international faculty to the campus and, in turn, JCCC’s faculty learn abroad. JCCC sends 30 faculty members abroad each year for professional exchanges, workshops and institutes.

“We encourage people to participate in staff development with the end product being curriculum development,” Kadel said.

JCCC is also one of 19 U.S. regional centers for the Asian Studies Development Program of the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii and a member of the Global College Network, Institute of International Education and the College Consortium for International Studies. Kadel serves as director of the JCCC Regional ASDP.

JCCC was honored in November by the 2010 Higher Education Task Force and U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy for its Las Pintas International Service-Learning Project. Begun in 1998, the project has assisted the people of Las Pintas with health care, dental care, after-school programs, training of local home-health promoters, family counseling, financial support for children to attend grades K-12 and community education.

Locally, JCCC international students serve K-12 schools by speaking about their home countries as part of the International Classroom Partnership Program.

The International Education program has received many significant grants. Most notable recent grants include the Title VI-A Islamic Studies grant, which has resulted in new language classes in Arabic and Hebrew, *History of the Middle East, Islam: Religion and Civilization, History of India* and Middle East and South Asian content added to classes from *International Business to Chinese Society: Past and Present*. A Title VI-A Asian Studies grant was recently awarded to the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii to develop Chinese studies at six colleges across the U.S., including JCCC.

The addition of the annual Greater Kansas City Japan Festival in 2004 has helped market JCCC's Japanese classes, been an inspiration for the Japanese garden, and served as an impetus for other international celebrations now held at JCCC — India Nite, Chinese New Year and Korean Thanksgiving Day Cultural Festival.

Being at a community college in the middle of the U.S. has never been a limiting factor for JCCC's International Education.

"Faculty and staff come from strong academic backgrounds and recognize how important study of languages, culture and history are," Kadel said.

Kadel modestly refuses recognition for what the ASPD calls a "well-developed international program," but colleagues put the credit squarely on her shoulders.

"Carolyn is deeply committed to international education, both personally and professionally," said Bob Perry, professor emeritus, sociology. "In her dedication, no task is too small and few are too big. She'll meet someone at the airport, buy groceries for a newly arriving international student, pin up a poster or write a federal grant. Carolyn began the international service project to Las



Pintas in Mexico in 1998. It is now coming up on its 13th year. Following a brief meeting with several college teachers from China back in 1987, Carolyn worked with Northwestern Polytechnical University, Xi'an, to craft an exchange agreement. That exchange is still in place 22 years later. Carolyn succeeded in writing a Title VI grant to develop curricula in the areas of Islamic history and cultures, and the results have been significant internationalization of courses at JCCC. Also, Carolyn worked tirelessly to establish JCCC as a regional center for the Asian Studies Development Program of the East-West Center in Hawaii. She genuinely enjoys the process of encouraging and supporting others in their international education endeavor."

"Carolyn continues to have a direct role in changing the lives of countless numbers of people from the college and from across the globe through the college's International Education program," said JCCC counselor Jeff Anderson, a leader in the Las Pintas project. "The change I'm speaking of here is transformative change — the type of change that forever alters the way you see yourself and the world around you. This change is quite powerful, and it's something you carry with you all the days of your life. Carolyn has been an agent of transformative change. That's her contribution, and that will be her legacy." **Im**

Kadel brings in international speakers, including Dr. Lawrence Korb, expert on terrorism, who spoke at JCCC as part of a program co-sponsored by the International Relations Council of Greater Kansas City.

Milestones for the International Education Program

- 1980 \$50,000 grant to establish International Education program, U.S. Department of Education
- 1980 First International Club
- 1981 First visiting scholar from Taiwan
- 1988 First Chinese exchange
- 1988 First semester study abroad to Ecuador, Ireland and England
- 1993 First Russian exchange begins
- 1998 Las Pintas Service-Learning project begins
- 2000 Intercultural Semester begins
- 2000 ACIIE International/Intercultural Achievement Award
- 2001 Asian Studies Development Program Regional Center
- 2002 First Dutch exchange for faculty and staff
- 2004 Greater Kansas City Japan Festival
- 2006-09 Title VI grant — Islamic Studies, awarded directly to JCCC from U.S. Department of Education
- 2011 Title VI — Asian studies, awarded to East-West Center at the University of Hawaii from U.S. Department of Education