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Rochester Institute of Technology

National Technical Institute for the Deaf
PEN - International
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Student Exchanges with China

To: All NTID Technical, Baccalaureate and Graduate Students
From: PEN-International Office (v/tty 5-2939, mclnod@rit.edu)
Date: 1 May 2001
Subject: PEN-International Goodwill Ambassador Scholarships

This note is being sent to encourage you to apply for one of **six exciting scholarships**. These scholarships will support **student travel to China** in November of 2001 (during the quarter break). Selected students will serve as **deaf ambassadors of goodwill**.

Attached to this memo are a description of the program and a description of the process for applying. We will use the criteria described in the attachment to choose outstanding deaf students. These students and four faculty/staff will form a delegation. The delegation will represent NTID and the USA at Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf of Tianjin University of Technology (China).

PEN-International would like to encourage you to apply if you meet the selection criteria.

**PEN-International Student Goodwill Ambassadors:
NTID, TCT and Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf**

Nature of the exchange program:

The Nippon Foundation of Japan has provided NTID with funding to establish PEN-International, an international **postsecondary education network** of universities and colleges around the world educating students who are deaf. During the first year of the program, Tianjin University of Technology (TUT, China) and Tsukuba College of Technology (TCT, Japan) will participate in the network along with NTID.

One very important component of the program is an **international exchange of students who will serve as goodwill ambassadors**. Therefore, in 2001, a delegation of six students, two faculty/staff co-leaders and two interpreters will visit TUT's Technical College for the Deaf. Three students and two faculty members from Tsukuba College of Technology will join the delegation in Tianjin. In March of 2002, a delegation from TUT and TCT visit the USA as goodwill ambassadors.

The underlying philosophy of the exchanges is:

To strengthen students' cultural and personal identity while simultaneously helping them to develop an understanding of the diverse cultures that affect the global marketplace.

This first student exchange will serve to expose participants to the cultures of Japan, China and the USA. The exchange will also serve to provide students with an introduction to the information technologies used in these three countries. Because of the globalization of the world economy, an international exchange of students is considered an excellent way to expose students to the realities of the world they will face after graduation.

Participants will be provided with room, board, airline transportation, airport transfers, local transportation and admission for planned activities

as a part of the goodwill fellowship. In addition, the cost of visas and supplemental health insurance for travel abroad will be covered by the scholarship. Participants will be responsible for all their own incidental expenses. All members of the delegation will travel together to and from the home university on the same itinerary. No provisions for **other** travel arrangements will be permitted.

Dates for 2001-2002 exchanges:

1. 20 November 2001 to 30 November 2001 (Fall / Winter break of AY 01-02): Visit by NTID and TCT delegations to China (TUT)
2. March 2002: Visit by TCT and TUT delegations to the USA (NTID)

Student eligibility:

Three (3) students from technical programs and three (3) students from baccalaureate and graduate programs will be selected to participate.

1. Deaf or hard-of-hearing NTID/RIT students may apply.
2. Priority will be given in selection to US Nationals and Permanent Residents.
3. Priority will be given in selection to students who have been at NTID/RIT for two years or more.
4. Priority will be given in selection to students **not graduating** until May 2002 or later.

Criteria for selection:

In order to apply a student must:

1. Submit a current grade report that shows a **Cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher** and maintain that average.
2. Have **no record** of judicial misconduct
3. Have demonstrated the ability to deal with diverse people and situations, and possess a demonstrated characteristic of personal flexibility
4. Submit a written essay of **no more than 500 words** or a videotape of **no more than five minutes** (due in LBJ-1615, the PEN-international Office, no later than 17:00 on 25 May 2001—late submissions will not be accepted)

The essay or videotape of an applicant must:

- a. Outline what the applicant expects to gain from participation
 - b. Describe what the applicant has to offer by participating in the exchange
 - c. Explain what the applicant will do upon return to the USA with what s/he learns from this experience
5. Submit two confidential letters of recommendation from members of the NTID/RIT faculty that address selection criterion #3 and any other issues a faculty member wishes to address (submitted to the PEN-International Office in LBJ-1615 no later than 17:00 PM on 1 June 2001—late submissions will not be accepted)
 6. Provide an address, phone number and e-mail address where he/she can be reached during the months of June, July and August of 2001.

Selection process:

The following steps will be followed in the selection of finalists and alternates:

1. Announcement of competition is published at NTID on or before 1 May 2001.
2. Application materials are due to the PEN-International Office (LBJ-1615) no later than 17:00 on 25 May 2001. Letters of recommendation are due no later than 17:00 on 1 June 2001.
3. Screening committee reviews all essays/videos and selects the top 10-12 candidates, placing them in rank order--completed by 30 June 2001 (screening committee will be comprised of the NTID faculty and staff who will accompany the delegation—S. Fischer, R. Baker, R. Smith, P. Sapere)
4. Selection committee (composed of R. Davila, T.A. Hurwitz, J. DeCaro) chooses the six students who will participate and 2-3 alternates (15 July 2001)
5. Notification of Students (30 July 2001)
6. Selected students and alternates acquire passports (for visa purposes) by 15 September 2001.

Expectations for all goodwill ambassadors:

1. Student ambassadors will participate in mandatory orientation sessions that will be held between 15 September and 20 November 2001. The inability to do so will result in replacement as a student ambassador.
2. Each student ambassador will develop a journal of his/her trip (written, photo, video or other format agreed upon by the delegation leader). This journal can serve as a basis for the final report (See #5 below). These journals will be posted on the PEN-International WWW site.
3. Student ambassadors will conform to a code of conduct that will be established by the delegation as a whole.
4. Student ambassadors will participate in the preparation and presentation of a lecture and/or panel discussion regarding USA culture and our educational system. This will be offered at TUT during the visit to China.
5. All "free time" activities will be planned and carried out by the delegation as a group (there will be no "on your own time activities")
6. Student ambassadors will be assigned other duties and responsibilities as determined by the delegation leader and co-leader.
7. Each student ambassador will submit a final report to the PEN-International Office by 17 December 2001. These final reports will be posted on the PEN-International WWW site.
8. Student ambassadors will work as a team to prepare and offer a **delegation presentation** to the NTID community during AY 01-02.
9. Student ambassadors will participate in the March 2002, visits by the Japanese and Chinese delegations.