

# Students In England Aren't Deterred

by Cristina Domingues  
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Several students and faculty from RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf are in East Sussex England taking part in a first of its kind program, a leadership workshop for students from around the world.

And the program directors say Thursday's foiled terrorist plot only strengthens their resolve to keep these kinds of international programs going.

The students found out early Thursday morning about what had happened. NTID directors then contacted all their parents and spouses to tell them everyone was safe.



Students are at the Herstmonceux Castle.

"Right now the students are very calm," said Dr. Alan Hurwitz, via telephone through an interpreter from England. "We've been watching some news on the television. So they understand what's going. We've explained to them what we're planning to do. Our program is proceeding just fine as planned."

The American students are taking the workshop with others from China, Russia and Japan. Directors say what happened Thursday won't deter them from holding future programs abroad.

"At a time like this where there are people around the world who are trying to sow seeds of hate it's these kinds of programs, when we can bring international people together to share on a common level, that can make a positive difference," said James DeCaro, the program's director. "It makes our resolve even stronger to engage in these kinds of activities."



Most of the students and staff come back to the United States Saturday and are planning to arrive at the airport four hours before their flights.

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# Students Home After Terror Threat

by Casey J. Bortnick  
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After a week overseas caught in the middle of the latest battle in the war on terror, some local college students returned to Rochester Sunday. When they left their goal was to share ideas on an international level, but staring down terror has inspired a new mission.

"Here we are at this great conference talking about leadership and this thing happens, this scare," said Lizzie Sorkin a student at the Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf.



Students return from England

For these students the language of terror is universal. It's a message of fear and division they receive loud and clear without an interpreter.

"It was disappointing to think so many people are creating this peaceful activity and creating peace. Then there are some that are the antithesis of that," Sokin added.

A small group of students and staff at NTID returns to Rochester International Airport following a week long program in Sussex England. The same week British authorities foiled a terror plot to blow up planes bound for the U.S.

"We were at the castle and that was about three hours south of London," said the Dean of NTID Dr. Alan Hurwitz.

"We were able to watch TV and get the news. We had the internet of course. So we were able to learn through those means what was going on. Our reaction was we were somewhat disgusted that was happening. It certainly did interfere with our program," said Hurwitz.

The goal of the program was to share ideas on how to improve educational opportunities for the deaf and the hard of hearing on an international level. If anything, this act of terror has only strengthened their resolve to reach out to the global community.

"This allows our students to interact with other on an international level. They've made so many friends from the five countries. This just makes us more determined than ever to continue this type of programming," Hurwitz said.

Despite a few anxious moments the only real hold up was a three and a half hour trip through security at Heathrow International Airport.

“We understood and respected the purpose of that, the restrictions,” said NTID Student Michelle Koplitz. “But I’m used to having my things. You know my backpack and everything,” said Koplitz.

This group spent the week sharing ideas with their counterparts overseas. They’re now committed to sharing a message of peace and understanding with or without an interpreter.

“I don’t think this type of thing will prevent us from doing an international type program again,” said Hurwitz.

A total of 20 students from the U.S., China, Japan, Russia and the Philippines took part in the leadership conference. Hurwitz said NTID is working to secure a seven million dollar grant to fund exchange program for deaf and hard of hearing students all over the world.



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