June 16th, 2017

From: Dr. Peter Loedel, Professor and Director, Center for International Programs
Dr. Vishal Shah, Associate Dean, College of the Sciences and Mathematics
Co-Chairs, West Chester University Internationalization Laboratory

To: West Chester University Campus Community

West Chester University (WCU) has been invited to join the American Council on Education’s (ACE) Internationalization Laboratory. With the support of President Fiorentino, Executive Vice President Bernotsky, and the President’s Cabinet, WCU has accepted the offer and we have been selected to lead, as co-chairs, the process. Participation in the Internationalization Laboratory will allow West Chester to build further on the efforts already underway at the University. We will launch the process starting this coming Fall 2017.

The ACE Internationalization Laboratory is an invitational two year-long learning community that assists participating colleges and universities to achieve comprehensive internationalization and successful global initiatives. To help institutions reach their goal, ACE guides the process of reviewing the array of international activities on campus; enhancing global awareness across the campus; articulating global student learning outcomes and assessing progress towards those goals; and developing a strategic plan to broaden and deepen internationalization at West Chester University. The goal is to produce a WCU Global Strategy that will guide our campus efforts into the future.

WCU’s process will commence with the assembly of a Global Leadership Team. If you are interested in serving on the Global Leadership Team (probably 12-15 people from across the campus and divisions) or be involved in a few working committees, please consider the following:
1) participants on the Global Leadership team must be nominated by their respective Division head, Dean or Director; 2) participants interested in engaging with this project and in working on the various working committees can express their general interest via an email to either one of us (ploedel@wcupa.edu and/or vshah@wcupa.edu).

Participants on the leadership team and working committees will be expected to be commit to the entire two-year process and participants should consider these active “working groups”. We are committed to and value shared governance and appreciate input from all units on campus. Each committee will be expected to produce a final document with a set of recommendations, including expected outcomes, to advance global initiatives and internationalization at West Chester University.

- For the full ACE description of the Internationalization Laboratory, please see here: [http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/ACE-Internationalization-Laboratory.aspx](http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/ACE-Internationalization-Laboratory.aspx)
- WCU, via the Center for International Programs, has set up a website as a clearinghouse
for information, processes, updates, and feedback: WCU Internationalization Lab

We are excited to lead this important and critical step in the ongoing growth and interest in international and global initiatives. Please consider how you might become involved in this campus-wide University process. Thank you for your consideration and interest.