

students' ability to adapt to new circumstances—an important skill in today's global workplace."

At Mount Royal College, which has a long history of looking south and is a partner in five projects financed under the mobility program, President David Marshall describes the exchange program as "critical" to Canada's future. "The kids who are coming to us up in Canada are the ones who will be the business partners of Albertans 10 years from now," he says.

One of them is Julieta Rojas Pacheco, a 25-year-old from the Universidad de Guadalajara who spent last fall at the Calgary college studying eco-tourism.

"My Dad told me, if you want your country to be a first-world country, you must be a first-world person," Rojas Pacheco says. "I thought it would be cool to have some international experience."

Mount Royal journalism graduate Todd Hurman—now a reporter in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia—looks back on his mobility program semester at the Universidad de Colima in Mexico in 2003 as "an eye-popping" journey.

"I'm seeing the effects now, even more than then," he says, citing the self-confidence and perspective he gained from living in another culture. "The benefits of living outside of your own 'box' and familiar surroundings can only enhance your world view."

What makes the mobility program unique is the collaboration among educational institutions. That's no mean feat.

A case in point is a group involving Mount Royal and five other institutions that was set up six years ago to



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integrate technology and design education. "We understood from the beginning there would be huge obstacles to getting six schools from three countries onto the same page," says Mount Royal interior design instructor Frank Harks. The partners initially met face-to-face, he says, a strategy that paid dividends for the participating students and faculty.

"We don't live in an isolated environment," Harks says. "What an incredible opportunity to open up doors for students who don't understand what internationalization means."

Student Glenn Mutsemaker is even more direct about what the experience of living and studying in Mexico taught him: "No matter what," he says, "just take a chance and go." 🍁

For details of the North American Mobility Program and other educational opportunities visit www.hrsdc.gc.ca.

See the Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration's evaluation at www.conahec.org.

Scholarships build understanding

Michael Hawes well understands Canada's lament at being seen as a "blip" on the U.S. radar screen and the lack of understanding Canadians often have for U.S. values and views. But the Queen's University political scientist is working hard to bridge the gap.

Spending a sabbatical year in 1999 in a research chair at the University of California at Berkeley sponsored by the Canada-U.S. Fulbright Program, Hawes shattered stereotypes about the cross-border relationship. When invited to lecture to California bankers during an electricity brown-out, he shocked them with data on their state's energy reliance on Alberta.

"They don't have a sense of how important Canada is to them," says Hawes, who has since become the executive director of the Canada-U.S. Fulbright Program, based in Ottawa. His California experience underscores why the scholarship—part of the prestigious international academic exchange established by the U.S. Government in 1946 in the name of Senator William J. Fulbright and extended to Canada in 1990—has become a fast-growing binational program aimed at enhancing mutual understanding between the two countries.

Sponsored by Foreign Affairs Canada, the U.S. Department of State, the private sector and academic institutions from both countries and known formally as the Foundation for Educational Exchange between Canada and the United States, the program has provided awards to more than 600 students and prominent scholars on both sides of the border. Recipients get between US\$15,000 and \$25,000 to spend from one semester to an academic year at a post-secondary institution in the other country, studying such contemporary issues as trade, health and security.

Visiting scholars fully integrate into the life of the university and the local community, with lectures, special events and other contacts to maximize interaction and insight. The program also offers cross-border exchanges for grade- and high-school teachers, mid-career professionals and students.

"We provide an opportunity to physically live, work and function in another country on an everyday basis," says Hawes. "It's a window onto another world that isn't available in any other way."

For more information see www.fulbright.ca.