

2007 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 72

December 7, 2007 – Introduced by Senators COWLES, HANSEN and A. LASEE, cosponsored by Representatives MONTGOMERY, A. OTT, NELSON and VAN ROY. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** recognizing and encouraging international education as an essential
2 component of the future of this state.

3 Whereas, international education is a critical component of higher education
4 in this state, contributing to the economy of the state and to a diverse college
5 environment in which both academic and extracurricular programs are enhanced;
6 and

7 Whereas, international education is critical to promoting a broadened world
8 view among the students of this state, thereby preparing those students for life and
9 work in the global economy, and to creating a diverse academic environment through
10 the exchange of scholars and students between countries, thereby building the
11 foundation for future business success; and

12 Whereas, higher education should emphasize international education,
13 including foreign language instruction and study abroad, in order to ensure that
14 graduates have the cross-cultural skills that are necessary to function effectively in
15 the global work force; and

1 Whereas, the Wisconsin legislature recognizes the social importance of cultural
2 awareness, the need to promote study abroad programs that serve the students of
3 this state, and the economic significance of international students who come to this
4 state for the educational opportunities provided by this state; and

5 Whereas, the economic gain for this state as a result of hosting international
6 students and their families is estimated to have exceeded \$151,902,000 in the
7 2005–06 academic year, and a strategy at the state and national level is needed to
8 ensure this country’s status as a magnet for international students and scholars; and

9 Whereas, the economy of this state is inextricably tied to the rest of the world,
10 and state economic development depends upon a deliberate strategic development
11 plan that includes recognition of the role of international education in all its facets;
12 and

13 Whereas, heightened cultural awareness is critical to this country’s national
14 interests and is a critical component of its foreign policy, and the colleges and
15 universities of this state play a key role in promoting that cultural awareness by
16 developing foreign language skills and foreign area expertise through foreign
17 language study, study abroad programs, and faculty exchange programs; and

18 Whereas, the national security, economic interests, and global competitiveness
19 of this country depend significantly on this country’s ability to provide future leaders
20 who have had the best education possible; now, therefore, be it

21 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
22 legislature recognizes that international education is an essential component of the
23 future of this state and supports and encourages students and faculty to promote
24 international education as a part of the curricular and extracurricular life at the

1 state's colleges and universities to ensure that students, as future leaders, are
2 prepared to meet the challenges of a global society.

3 (END)