

PRESS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center Offers New Study in Mexico Program

Fifteen students and professors from southwest Virginia recently participated in the first "Study in Mexico" program organized by the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHEC). Participating schools included: Emory & Henry College, University of Virginia's College at Wise, Virginia Intermont College, and Virginia Highlands Community College. George Hiller from the SVHEC and Dr. Amelia Harris from UVa-Wise coordinated the program.

The students studied international business as well as Mexican history and culture at the Tecnologico de Monterrey. In addition, the students visited the local Mexican business partners of Bristol Compressors and Strongwell, Inc. Both of these southwest Virginia businesses are major exporters of manufactured products to Mexico.

The Study in Mexico program is designed to educate area college students about the trade and cultural linkages between southwest Virginia and Mexico. For most of the students, this was their first trip to Mexico. For several, it was their first airplane flight.

The SVHEC received a major grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education's Business and International Education program to underwrite costs of the program. In addition, the Virginia Tobacco Commission provides financial support for the international business programs at the Center. Plans are underway to offer the Study in Mexico program again in May 2006.

For more information, please contact George L. Hiller, Director of International Business & Education, at 276-619-4374 or email him at ghiller@swcenter.edu. You may also visit www.globalvirginia.com.