

January 8, 2007

Dear Editor

In today's 'flat world,' where communications, business, and culture all intersect in a global way locally, Parkland College is helping prepare our district's students to be globally competent.

Parkland offers over forty courses focused on international contexts which include credit and non-credit opportunities in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Kiswahili, Russian and Spanish. Thirty six Parkland students participated this past year in short and long term study abroad in Europe, Central America, and India, with a new opportunity upcoming in Senegal.

Parkland College is also educating international students. Over three hundred students from 50-60 countries attend Parkland each semester. Another 132 recently graduated from a joint program with the Beijing Vocational College of Agriculture. With Parkland College's degrees, international students not only reach personal goals, but often return home to contribute to their nations' development. At the same time, international students enrich our classrooms, providing personal perspective on global issues, including dispelling misconceptions surrounding religion, immigration, or cultural tradition. We value their presence in our college and community!

Parkland helps to prepare students to live in a world where their employer is more and more likely to be multinational, and where global competency will increasingly be an expectation of employment. The world is getting smaller, and Parkland College is proud of the efforts of talented faculty, staff, and students in shaping the future.

Sincerely

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Parkland College Trustee

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