

TRENDS: INTERNATIONALIZATION

TUTORIAL PRESENTATION

*Janet L. Kourik
Webster University
Math & Computer Science Department
470 East Lockwood Avenue,
St. Louis, Missouri 63119
E-mail: kourikjl@websteruniv.edu*

ABSTRACT

There is a continuing and growing movement to "internationalize" curriculum in all disciplines. What is "internationalization"? How does this movement relate to computer science and information systems? What form might "internationalization" take in our courses? This session will provide some responses to these and other questions you may have about the trend to "internationalize."

As it becomes more obvious that we are participants in a global economy and society, exposure to international perspectives can help us build, maintain and support global information systems and technology. Our discipline brings to the world technologies, like communications, networking and the internet, that advance global interaction. Information technology workers are building systems that will be used by people from many different backgrounds and experiences. For example, the work force in the United States is becoming more diverse. With the shift to collaboration, teamwork and virtual offices, projects often involve working closely with people around the world. In this environment, an awareness of other nations, countries and cultures becomes increasingly important.

There have been a number of initiatives in government, education and information technology that highlight the need for increasing our knowledge of other countries, nations and cultures. This session will endeavor to help participants become acquainted with the move to "internationalize" and suggest some practical ways to implement "internationalization" in computer science and information systems.

TUTORIAL GOALS

- Summarize some of the reasoning behind "internationalization"
- Provide sources for more information about the movement
- Discuss the forms an internationalized curriculum might take
- Assist participants in evaluating their own curriculum
- Present practical ways to internationalize existing curriculum

- Encourage participants to develop and share teaching suggestions
- Share some useful resources

TUTORIAL FORMAT

The tutorial is designed to actively engage participants through discussions, activities and handout materials such as assisting participants in an on-the-spot self-evaluation of their current curriculum. Practical examples of assignments will be presented. Resources will be identified that explain the move to "internationalize" and support the implementation of "internationalization". Participants will be encouraged to work together to design and share new course assignments. Bring your questions, ideas and experiences to share as we consider our responses to an important trend in computer science and information systems.