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Integrating Diverse Backgrounds to the Aviation Program

Gail Y. Rouscher
gail.y.rouscher@wmich.edu
**Purpose of Leadership Project**

- The purpose of this leadership project is to recognize the needs of and provide support to the many international students currently enrolled at WMU College of Aviation.
- To determine specific areas of need and support for future international students to the college and the university, in addition to those resources currently provided by the university.

**Goal of Leadership Project**

→ The intended goal of this leadership project is to create a resource that will be a living document to be used as a tool for those students new to the United States, Western Michigan University, College of Aviation, and the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek area.

→ The document will include such items as religious houses of worship within the local community, where to locate specialty foods and personal items as specified, transportation, integration with other students of the College of Aviation and Western Michigan University, community opportunities, and any other support deemed necessary or requested.

**International Students Represent:**

- India
- Kenya
- Malaysia
- Saipan MP
- Italy
- China
- Canada
- Nigeria

**College Organizations all students can become involved with:**

- **MAAP – Multicultural Association of Aviation Professional**
  A non-profit student-run organization at WMU. Purpose is to enhance, promote, and educate the multicultural aviation community by fostering a strong support system between the educational and professional environments in the field of aviation.

- **Women in Aviation – local chapter of Women in Aviation International**
  Non-profit organization dedicated to the encouragement and advancement of women in all aviation career fields and interest. Offers educational outreach programs to educators, aviation industry members, and young people nationally and internationally.

- **Aviation Student Council**
  Serves the entire College of Aviation student body by fostering collaboration of the college students, faculty and administrative staff. Organize and engage in student outreach and recruitment activities.

- **Alpha Eta Rho, Theta Chapter**
  Aviation fraternity which provides an opportunity to meet and interact with airline pilots, air traffic controllers and airport managers through business and social functions.

- **PAMA – Professional Aviation Maintenance Association**
  Provides an opportunity for exposure to the maintenance industry by interacting with professionals from various areas of the industry.

**What items should be included?**

- Specialty foods
- Personal products
- Transportation
- Any other items identified through student interaction

**What are the next steps?**

- Develop questionnaire for international students to determine their needs and how best to respond to those requests
- Meet with current students in a group and discuss how their needs have been met, what has worked well, what hasn’t, and what can be done to improve their WMU College of Aviation experience.
- Research houses of worship, specialty food retailers, personal item retailers, and other identified areas of concern.
- Compile a guide to include all information to be added to as other items are identified.
- Distribute to all international students at the college.
- Update as other items are identified.

**Contact Information**

Gail Rouscher, M.A.
College of Aviation

gail.rouscher@wmich.edu

(269) 964-8333