

By Representative Betancourt

## House Resolution

A resolution recognizing the importance of international education in Florida.

WHEREAS, in 1979, the President's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies concluded that "nothing less is at issue than the nation's security" if measures are not taken to increase the international understanding and competencies of United States citizens, and, some 20 years later, world events bear out the still-relevant nature of such a finding, and

WHEREAS, in Florida, foreign direct investment totaled \$29.6 billion in 1997, and more than 1.4 million persons who were not United States citizens lived in the state; in 1998, Florida's international merchandise trade volume was almost \$70 billion, and there were more than 9 million international visitors to the state; and in 1999 more than 803 internationally affiliated companies located in Florida employed more than 44,000 workers, truths which emphasize the importance both of international trade on the state's economy and of a citizenry equipped with the knowledge and cultural and decisionmaking skills vital in meeting the challenges of a competitive world market, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Consortium for International Education, established in 1977, has promoted international educational programs at the state's community colleges and universities for more than 20 years, and most of these institutions have developed one or more components of such programs, which include language studies, the promotion of global awareness, the infusion of international dimensions into on-campus curricula, the enrollment of international

1 students, opportunities for students and faculty alike to  
2 study abroad, international technical assistance projects, and  
3 linkages with institutions, agencies, and governments in other  
4 countries, and

5           WHEREAS, the enrollment of international students in  
6 United States institutions provides their American classmates  
7 exposure to other cultures and perspectives, and, conversely,  
8 the experiences of foreign students, many of whom will be  
9 leaders in their respective nations, have the potential for  
10 developing favorable attitudes towards the United States, and

11           WHEREAS, a study abroad or faculty exchange program  
12 offers the participant an excellent opportunity to experience  
13 the life and culture of another people, thus providing  
14 knowledge and insights into differing perspectives and value  
15 systems and frequently resulting in an individual who is  
16 better prepared to enter the job market as a more aware,  
17 skilled, and valued employee in an increasingly interdependent  
18 world, NOW, THEREFORE,

19  
20 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
21 Florida:

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23           That the House of Representatives recognizes the  
24 extreme importance of international educational programs in  
25 Florida's community colleges and universities, and  
26 wholeheartedly supports efforts to further their expansion  
27 throughout the state.

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