

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12
INTRODUCED BY J. BRUEGGEMAN

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE GLOBAL SOCIETY.

WHEREAS, advances in communication and transportation technology over the past half-century have made today's world increasingly interconnected; and

WHEREAS, successful businesses, universities, and governments depend on a global perspective; and

WHEREAS, this era of global exchange has created a marketplace of ideas in which citizens of the world from distinct social, cultural, religious, and linguistic backgrounds cooperate and compete on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, evidence of the growing connection between Montana and the rest of the world can be found in the Institute of International Education's Open Doors Report 2005; and

WHEREAS, 966 students studying abroad were enrolled through Montana institutions in 2004, a 10% increase from 2003, and these foreign students and their families contributed over \$21 million to the Montana economy in 2004 and 2005; and

WHEREAS, international education is critical to promoting a broadened world view that prepares Montanans for life and work in the global economy; and

WHEREAS, creating a diverse academic environment by exchanging scholars and students between countries builds the foundation for future international business success; and

WHEREAS, with foreign trade projected to be a key factor of Montana's economy and with the economy of Montana inextricably intertwined to the rest of the world, our state's economic development depends upon a deliberate strategic development plan that includes recognition of the role of international education in all its facets; and

WHEREAS, the United States' national security and economic competitiveness depend significantly on the country's ability to provide future leaders with the education that will best prepare them to respond to the demands of the 21st century.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Montana Legislature finds that international education is an essential component of the bright future of the great State of Montana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Legislature support and encourage international education to ensure that students and future leaders are prepared to meet the challenges of a global society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Higher Education.

- END -