Western Connecticut State University International Center (W.I.C.)

2017-2018 Annual Report

Prepared by

A Ben Ouamlil, Ph.D.
WIC Coordinator

April 28, 2018
Western Connecticut State University International Center  
(W.I.C.)

2017-2018 Annual Report

Name:
The name of the organization shall be the Western Connecticut State University International Center (W.I.C.).

Purpose:
1. The W.I.C. shall seek in various ways to increase the awareness of student, faculty, staff, secondary school instructors and pupils, and the community in international affairs, international culture, and international problems.

By international affairs is meant contemporary interests and difficulties among nations, by international culture is meant why people act and think differently from our own culture, their religious beliefs, philosophy of life, arts (e.g., music, dance, painting, sculpture, etc.), education, manner of conducting business, etc.; by international problems is meant global concerns not easily fitting into the previous two categories (e.g., acid rain, food distribution, desertification, energy, etc.)

2. The W.I.C. shall assist in making the University community more aware of opportunities afforded by grants, student and faculty international exchanges, foreign travel with and without academic credit, international education and such other opportunities which may be of benefit and aid in fostering international understanding.

The 2017-2018 Academic Year’s Activities

As in the 2016-2017 academic year, the 2017-2018 academic year was highly productive and successful in the Western International Center (WIC), in light of transitional leadership. With well-experienced committee members, we initiated new campus programs and events, recruited in several new committee members for the WIC.

The WIC has 12 committee members representing all academic units and administrative offices. In addition, the WIC Committee also includes a student representative. The committee members are responsible for everything regarding promoting international education and awareness on our WCSU campuses. The 2015-2016 WIC Committee members are (in alphabetical order):

Carina Bandhauer, Walter Cramer, Jennifer Flynn, Ree LeBlanc Gunter, Christine Hegel-Cantarella, Renate Ludanyi, Averell Manes, A Ben OuMilil (WIC Coordinator), Zuohong Pan, Divya Sharma, Monica Sousa, and Sal Trapani.
As educators and administrators, we continue our effort to promote the internationalization and intercultural experiences for WCSU students and professional colleagues and supporting the WCSU vision of responsible engagement with the local, national and global communities. For exemplars/samples of the WIC Committee Minutes for 2017-2018, please see Appendix A.

The WCSU students on ISEP numbers keep growing. Based on the information received from the WIC International Services Office, In Spring 2018, there are 4 students studying in the countries of Australia, Germany, Northern Ireland, and Spain. Additionally, there are 7 ISEP Exchange Students studying at WCSU representing the countries of Australia, Hong Kong, Italy, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, and Scotland.

Furthermore, the international students’ population keeps also growing. In Spring 2018, there are 15 International Students on F-1 Visa representing the countries of: Brazil, Burma, China, Chile, England, France, India, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, and Russia.

The International Services staff continues to develop partnerships with schools overseas and recruit more students from abroad.

I. The International Education Week 2017 (October 23 – 25, 2017)

International Education Week (IEW) is a university-wide celebration of international education endeavors organized by the WIC Committee. The main aim of IEW is to promote and celebrate international programs and to encourage participation in them. For a full schedule of events, the WIC 2017 International Education Week, see Appendix A.

Students, faculty, and staff at the University engage in a variety of activities across our two campuses. All of these activities result in an international and cross-cultural knowledge exchange that enriches the WCSU community.

The 2017 IEW showcased international activities at the University through a series of events throughout the week of October 23th.

All events were well attended and successful. A part of the 2017 IEW, one the events included students who discussed their cultural experiences abroad. Additionally, a student musical group performed a true variety of music from many parts of the world. This students’ focus session is titled “Living and Study Abroad, Cultural Experiences”. This event was the first of its kind that was included during the IEW dedicated to students as a showcase of their international cultural experiences from a global perspective.
The 2017 WIC International Education Week Agenda Items:

1. WIC International Education Week, October 23-26, 2017, event update:
   a. Trivia/Quiz event: Tuesday, October 24; held 6-8pm.
   b. Information Tables for International Study Abroad Programs will be on Midtown campus on Tuesday (October 23) and on Westside campus on Wednesday (October 24). The event will provide information on Fulbright, David L. Boren, Ethnographic Field Methods in Barbados, and ISEP programs.
      i. Donna placed a request to Student Center for the table for this event.
   c. Wednesday, October 24, is set for the “Get Your Name in Other Languages” (Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Persian) event. Divya will meet with Ben to purchase supplies for that event.
   d. The Constantine S. Macricostas Lecture Series: Sponsored by the Macricostas Family Foundation and WCSU Western International Center (WIC). Presentation: "To Save the Country" Lord Byron, General Makriyannis and the Greek War of Independence
      Presenter: Maria Georgopoulou, Directory of the Gennadius Library, American School of Classical Studies in Athens
      Facilitator: Theodora Pinou
      Lecture Starting at 5:30 PM in White Hall 127, Midtown Campus. Ben Oumilil is this event’s coordinator.
      Presenter: Jesenia Minier-Delgado, Director, WCSU Office of Diversity & Equity.

Feedback on the WIC Education Week

The Name Writing event on both campuses was very successful. More than 30 students (per campus) stopped by to get their names in different languages.

The Cultural Diversity Event was very well attended and nearly 50 students showed up.

The International Trivia contest was much better organized this year. There were at least 40 students in the dining area (Westside) who enthusiastically participated in the event.

The Constantine S. Macricostas Lecture Series had somewhat low turnout.
➢ **Attendance/Poster**

The committee recognized that most events are not well attended unless the class is invited. Renate Ludanyi suggested that the committee needs to find ways to publicize various events to the larger public. It would increase attendance and also create more name recognition for the committee/university. It would certainly add more prestige to the events.

The committee should explore advertising in local newspapers, flyers etc. It would also necessitate planning events in advance to get the word out in a timely manner.

Instead of one poster for all events, the committee may think about having multiple posters, that is, one poster per event. Renate suggested inviting arts major students to create a poster and giving a small monetary reward (for instance, $50) for the best poster. It can be discussed with members at the next meeting.

A big thank you to all of our sponsors: International Services Office, Office of the Provost for Academic Affairs, Dean of Arts and Sciences Division, WCSU Bookstore, and Food Services.

For information on the **WIC International Education Week 2017**, see *International Education Week Schedule of Events listed in Appendix B.*
II. The 2018 WIC Get-Together with the WCSU ISEP and International Students Event.

The 2015 WIC Get-Together with ISEP Students event was the first such event organized on our campus by the WIC. During the WIC December 1st meeting, Ben Oumlil (WIC Coordinator) introduced the idea to extend this event to include both the WCSU ISEP and International Students. Additionally, Ben Oumlil introduced the idea to include (i.e., to extend an invitation to) the University Officials. This exciting event is organized by our WIC Committee to celebrate the End-of-Academic Year with our ISEP and International Students and our invited guests (i.e., the University Officials). The aim is also to have an opportunity to acknowledge our ISEP and International Students and the achievements of our WIC Committee during the 2015-2016 Academic Year. Moreover, the WIC hosted this “end of the year get-together lunch” with WCSU ISEP and International students on April 27 at 12:15 on the Midtown Campus. This luncheon was served as the last WIC meeting of the semester. This event was well-attended. The consensus by the attendees, including the WIC Committee members, is to make this Get-Together with the WCSU ISEP and International Students Event an annual event.

➢ International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) Reception 2015

In an effort to welcome international students and to integrate them, the WIC committee organized a reception for them. Refreshments and cookies/snacks were provided by the WIC. Students shared their experience at WCSU and in the U.S. WCSU international students will also continue to be invited to WIC meetings.
III. **Budget**

The 2015-16 WIC’s operative budget is $2500. The WIC FY16 Budget was submitted in February 2015. The committee used the funds in various ways to increase the awareness of student, faculty, staff, secondary school instructors and pupils, and the community in international affairs, international culture, and international problems.

VI. **Challenges**

- **Budgetary Challenge:**

  The core fiscal challenge for the WIC is budgetary pressures created by the fiscal challenge to fulfill all received financial requests. Additionally, there is a need to curb spending and/or for the WIC to encourage its committee members to consider/to seek outside funding sources to fully/partially funds to support current and future international oriented activities. In other words, the ‘W.I.C. shall assist in making the University community more aware of opportunities afforded by grants, student and faculty international exchanges, foreign travel with and without academic credit, international education and such other opportunities which may be of benefit and aid in fostering international understanding.’ These efforts are in line with our mission and organizational goals. Furthermore, these efforts need to be coordinated with *The Office of Sponsored Research and Administrative Services* at our institution.
Appendix A

Exemplar/Samples of WIC Committee Meeting Minutes
for 2017-2018 Academic Year

Western International Committee Meeting (WIC)

Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2017

I. Call to order

[Facilitator Name] called to order the regular meeting of the Western International Committee at 12:35 pm on September 22, 2017 at Old Main 304 Conference Room.

II. Attendees

Present: Walter Cramer, Jennifer Flynn, Christine Hegel-Cantarella, Renate Ludanyi, Ben Oumil, Zuohong Pan, Divya Sharma, Monica Sousa, Sal Trapani, Donna Warner.

Regrets: Ree LeBlanc Gunter

III. Agenda Items

1) Welcome New and Returning Members

2) 2017 WIC International Education Week
   a) Tentative Dates: October 23-26, 2017
   b) Soliciting proposed cultural/educational activities
   c) Partnership with the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Tentative date October 25th.
d) English Department Faculty Lecture Series, November 6th, 2017.

3) **External Funding Opportunities.**

4) **Collaboration Opportunities** with Office of InterCultural Affairs, WCSU.


Motion: Ben Oumlil, Second: Jennifer Flynn

Vote: Yes: Unanimous

Motion passes to have the 2017 WIC International Educations Week on October 23 – 26, 2017.

V. **Discussion Topic: 2017 WIC International Education Week, Cultural/Educational Activities**

**Posters:** Ben Oumlil needs commitment for Education week by October 6th, 2017, so he can design the posters. Information needed: Who? Dates? Times? Divya will layout the poster format.

Proposed **International Trivia Contest Event** will be on October 23rd, 2017, Westside Campus Center Cafeteria at 6:00 pm. Sal Trapani will be the MC for the International Trivia Contest.

- Should students be permitted to look up answers on their phones? Consider “small” prizes if phones are permitted.
- Offer door prizes?
- Prizes need to be solicited.
- Donna Warner will ask ISEP students to assist at this event.
- A presentation will take place at the WCSU on October 25th by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Ben Oumlil stated this event will be a co-sponsorship between WIC and the American School of Classical Studies at Athens in association with the 2017 WIC International Education Week Program.
- Consider inviting a speaker from Germany. Need to be sure that an appropriate number of students will attend.
- Possibly integrate international discussions with topics that will encourage faculty/class commitment, such as:
- Brexit
- Dreamers / Immigration Issues
- Immigration
  - Invite Daryle Dennis (InterCultural Affairs Office) and Jesenia Minier-Delgado (Equity & Diversity Officer) to the next WIC Committee meeting.
  - Christine Hegel-Cantarella will hold and information session on the trip to Barbados.

Other Proposed Activities:

- Consider having a hurricane relief fundraiser. Check to not overlap with other campus efforts.
- Write students’ names in other languages
- ISEP Information Table.

VI. Discussion Topic: Partnership with the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Tentative date October 25th.
Ben Oumlil will pursue the realization of this opportunity.

VII. Discussion Topic: English Department Faculty Lecture Series, November 6, 2017.
Funds are needed to pay the visiting lecturer. Can WIC contribute to the $750 fee? The committee proposal was $250. But, if the funds are approved by the WIC, the committee members want to have guarantees that this event will be well attended by students.

Walter Cramer will contact the theater department to see if they are interested in participating.

VIII. Discussion Topic: External Funding Opportunities
In order to secure external funding, there is a need to demonstrate that WIC events are well attended. Possibly have students sign in.

Another opportunity for external funding is from the Department of Education. However, Ben Oumlil stated that help is needed to write the grant (i.e., asked for volunteers).

Preparations must start immediately. Ben Oumlil will contact The Office of Sponsored Research and Administrative Services for more details, and then will solicit help.

IX. Discussion Topic: Collaboration Opportunities with Office of InterCultural Affairs, WCSU.
All centers are up for review. Ben Oumlil will meet with Daryle Dennis regarding possible participation by the Office of InterCultural Affairs in the 2017 WIC International Education Week Program.

X. Miscellaneous

- There is one applicant for the Fulbright scholarship. Christine Hegel-Cantarella will be the representative to the Ad-Hoc Fulbright committee to report back to the WIC Committee with updates.

- The New England ISEP representative will be here on November 2, 2017, to meet with interested students. The representative would like to meet with interested faculty members.

XI. Next Meeting

Friday, October 13th, 2017, at 12:30 pm in Old Main 304 Conference Room.

All details on Education Week must be submitted by participating WIC Committee members to Ben Oumlil by October 6th (or before) for enclosure in the 2017 WIC International Education Week Program.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Jennifer Flynn
Western International Committee Meeting (WIC)

Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2017

A) to order

Ben Oumlil (Chair) called the regular meeting of the Western International Committee to order at 12:40pm on October 13, 2017 at Old Main 304 Conference Room

B) Attendees:

Present: Jennifer Flynn, Christine Hegel-Cantarella, Ree Gunter, Renate Ludanyi, Ben Oumlil, Divya Sharma, & Donna Warner

C) Approval of September 22 Meeting Minutes: Vote to Approve: Yes (6) Abstention (1)

D) Agenda Items:

2. WIC International Education Week, October 23-26, 2017, event update:
   a. Due to a schedule conflict, the Sub-committee members (Divya, Donna, & Sal) requested to move the date of the Trivia/Quiz event to Tuesday, October 24; it will be held 6-8pm.
   b. Information Tables for International Study Abroad Programs will be on Midtown campus on Tuesday (October 23) and on Westside campus on Wednesday (October 24). The event will provide information on Fulbright, David L. Boren, Ethnographic Field Methods in Barbados, and ISEP programs.
      i. Donna placed a request to Student Center for the table for this event.
   c. Wednesday, October 24, is set for the “Get Your Name in Other Languages” (Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Persian) event. Divya will meet with Ben to purchase supplies for that event.
   d. The Constantine S. Macricostas Lecture Series: Sponsored by the Macricostas Family Foundation and WCSU Western International Center (WIC).
      Presentation: "To Save the Country" Lord Byron, General Makriyannis and the Greek War of Independence
      Presenter: Maria Georgopoulou, Directory of the Gennadius Library, American
School of Classical Studies in Athens
Facilitator: Theodora Pinou
Lecture Starting at 5:30 PM in White Hall 127, Midtown Campus. Ben Oumlil
is this event’s coordinator.

e. Cultural Diversity events: Two events on Wednesday, October 24th, starting at
9:25 am and 10:50 am. Presentation: “Cultural Diversity: Engaging
Differences: A Dialogue around definitions, challenges and strategies.”
Presenter: Jesenia Minier-Delgado, Director, WCSU Office of Diversity &
Equity.

3. The 2017 WIC International Education Week: Publicity and Ongoing Preparation
   a. Christine will reach out to Carina Bandhauer to see if she wants to bring her
      Latino/as in America students to this event.
   b. Ben will send a PDF of the complete poster to everyone on the committee and
      will submit all the event listings to WOW.
   c. Everyone hosting an event this week should have students sign in so that we can
demonstrate attendance.

4. WIC International Education Week 2018 planning
   a. The suggestion was made that planning for the next International Education
      Week needs to begin during Spring term, in lieu of October. This would allow
      the committee to have more time for planning. The committee concurred.

E) New Business/Discussion topics:

a) Next meeting of the committee will be Friday, December 1st, so that we can plan for
   Spring 2018 and Fall 2018 events, such as the film series.

b) The suggestion was also made to consider planning one event per month, rather than
   planning one week of events in the spring and one in the fall. This would make it more
   likely that students could attend an event at some point during the year, in case the timing
   of International Week or the film series does not work out for them.
   i) Christine suggested to bring an Indian dance expert/performer to campus to give a
      presentation and talk; she will follow through with her contact to arrange this and
      bring a proposal to the committee in December.
   ii) The suggestion was made, in conjunction with this, to offer a similar presentation
      about Irish step dance.
   iii) Renate will work on planning an event with a focus on temporary European
      related issue(s) in March.
c) **ISEP representative’s visit to our campus** will be (possibly) during early November. The visit will be a Q&A session with interested participants; **Donna is coordinating this event** and will communicate with the WIC Committee members regarding the final time/date of the visit.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 1:16pm.

**Minutes submitted by:** Christine Hegel-Cantarella
Appendix B

The 2017 WIC INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK
Organized by Western International Center (WIC)
Monday October 23 – Wednesday October 25, 2017

Schedule of Events

The 2017 Western International Center (WIC) International Education Week

Monday, October 23rd
International Trivia Contest
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Westside Campus Center Dining Hall
Facilitators: Divya Sharma, Sal Trapani, Donna Warner
Tuesday, October 24
International Study Programs Information Table:
- ISEP Information Table
  11:30 am - 1 pm
  Midtown Student Center Lobby
  Facilitator: Donna Warner

- Summer 2018 Ethnographic Field School in Barbados
  11:30 am - 1 pm
  Midtown Student Center Lobby
  Facilitator: Christine Hegel-Cantarella

- The 2018 Fulbright IIE Fellowship and David L. Boren Scholarship programs
  11:30 am - 1 pm
  Midtown Student Center Lobby
  Facilitator: Rob Whittemore

Tuesday, October 24
Get Your Name in ARABIC, PERSIAN and CHINESE!
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Student Center, Outside Bookstore, Midtown
Facilitators: Mohsen Alizadeh, Hamid El Khalfi, Xiaomei Gong, Xiaoqi Han

Wednesday, October 25
ISEP Information Table
11:30 am - 1 pm
Westside Campus Center
Facilitator: Donna Warner

Get Your Name in HINDI and CHINESE!
3:00 - 5:00 pm
Westside Campus Center, Dining/Lobby Area
Facilitators: Zuohong Pan, Divya Sharma
Wednesday, October 25
Presentation: "To Save the Country" Lord Byron, General Makriyannis and the Greek War of Independence
Presenter: Maria Georgopoulou, Director of the Gennadius Library, American School of Classical Studies in Athens
Facilitator: Theodora Pinou
Lecture Starting at 5:30 PM in White Hall 127, Midtown Campus, 181 White Street, Danbury
Reception following the lecture in White Hall 122

The Constantine S. Macricostas Lecture Series sponsored by the Macricostas Family Foundation and WCSU Western International Center (WIC).

Wednesday, October 25
Presenter: Jesenia Minier-Delgado
9:25 am - 10:40 am, WS377B, Westside Campus
Facilitator: Ben Oumlil

Presenter: Jesenia Minier-Delgado
10:50 am - 12:05 pm, WS377B, Westside Campus
Facilitator: Ben Oumlil