

Increasing International and Cultural Understanding: A Resource Guide for Afterschool Providers



Across North Carolina, business and community leaders are encouraging students and teachers to increase their understanding of the wider world. The afterschool hours are an excellent time for activities that increase international and cultural understanding. The state has a wealth of resources that afterschool programs can take advantage of to increase student connections to the world around them.

The following is a brief resource guide that outlines some of the many informational and instructional resources available.

Background Information about International Education

North Carolina Center for International Understanding (www.ciu.northcarolina.edu)

The site contains information about the center's efforts to increase international understanding and education throughout the state. It also offers professional development opportunities to allow teachers to visit and learn from countries around the world. The center is currently accepting applications for international school partnerships with China and Mexico.

North Carolina in the World (www.ncintheworld.org)

This site contains information about the Center for International Understanding's project to improve student knowledge about the international community. The site includes reports about increasing student knowledge as well as preparing teachers for an interconnected world. The site also has a search engine that allows educators to search for lessons to teach students about world cultures and international understanding.

Economic Impact of the Hispanic Population on the State of North Carolina

(http://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/ki/reports/2006_HispanicStudy/)

This site summarizes the Kenan Institute's recent study of North Carolina's Hispanic Population. It contains a link to the full report, which is very interesting reading for anyone interested in how the Hispanic population impacts the state.

InternationalED.org (www.internationaled.org)

The Asia Society sponsors this website, which provides a great deal of information about the importance of international education and 21st century skills. There is also a resource guide that lists a number of websites that offer lesson plans and other resources for educators.

The American Forum for Global Education (www.gloaled.org)

This website contains information about the many programs and resources that the Forum offers to help increase global awareness. These resources include curricula and professional development opportunities. The site also contains a searchable database of teacher resources as well as a number of other publications that include a global education checklist. Email registration is required to use the search database.

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Academic Centers for International Study

These centers offer a number of resources for schools that North Carolina afterschool programs can take advantage of. They often have outreach programs that provide lesson plans, presentations, workshops, and other resources for educators. Most large research universities in other states would likely have similar programs.

UNC Center for Global Initiatives (gi.unc.edu)

The center's outreach initiative: "Bringing the World to NC Schools" offers classroom presentations on most world regions. The program is based out of the Chapel Hill campus, but three other UNC-system campuses offer programs in other regions of the state.

Western Carolina University

(www.wcu.edu/ips/Public_Schools.html)

The university's K-12 International outreach program offers presentations to area schools. The site also contains a teacher resource section that provides useful links to curricula centered on internationalizing the curriculum.

Appalachian State University

(www.international.appstate.edu/outreach/k12.htm)

This site allows educators to request an international presentation and view a sample presentation.

Elizabeth City State University (252-335-3721)

Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the University of North Carolina and Duke University

(www.duke.edu/web/carolinadukeconsortium/)

Duke University Asian/Pacific Institute

(www.duke.edu/APS/events/teachers.html)

Duke University Center for International Studies

(www.jhfc.duke.edu.ducis.outreach.html)

Duke/UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies (www.unc.edu/depts/slavic/)

North Carolina Center for South Asia Studies

(www.ncsu.edu/tsac/outreach.html)

UNC-Chapel Hill Center for European Studies

(www.unc.edu/depts/europe)

UNC University Center African Studies Center

(www.unc.edu/depts/africa/home.html)

Web Resources for Afterschool providers

These links offer a sampling of the vast array of resources and curricula that educators can access via the web to help increase international understanding. Many of the previously mentioned sites also have teacher materials and resources posted on them.

World View (www.unc.edu/world/resources.shtml)

This website provides extensive resources on global issues that are grouped by geographic area and subject area.

Ask Asia (www.askasia.org)

This site contains lesson plans, maps, essays and other searchable resources about Asia.

Stanford Program on International and Cross-cultural Education (spice.stanford.edu)

This site offers a number of curricula on various international issues mostly focusing on Asia. Topics include: the Silk Road, world geography, world religions, the United Nations, and many others. The curricula are available for purchase on the website and are mainly geared toward middle and secondary students.

National Geographic Expeditions

(www.nationalgeographic.com/education)

This site has a number of has a searchable database of lesson plans, activities and maps that link to the National Geography Standards. Most of these activities and lesson plans are short and can be conducted in an afterschool setting.

Peace Corps Worldwide Schools

(www.peacecorp.gov/wws/)

The program enables schools to link up with a current Peace Corps volunteer and exchange letters. The site also has a database containing lesson plans for educators and stories from volunteers. Educators can also arrange for Peace Corps alumni to speak at their program site.

Education World

(www.educationworld.com)

This website offers lesson plans as well as professional development opportunities for educators. Many of these lessons have an international focus.

Library of Congress: Portals

(www.loc.gov/rr/international/portals.html)

This website is not geared specifically toward educators, but it contains information and links to nearly every country in the world that teachers can use to supplement lesson plans.

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North Carolina Museum Programs

This section offers a listing of some of the museums throughout the state that offer resources and educational programming appropriate for afterschool programs. Some museums offer special tours and programs for school groups with an international focus. Other museums provide resources that teachers can bring back to the classroom to increase awareness about world cultures. This is not an exhaustive list; many other museums throughout the state offer educational programming about international issues.

Exploris Museum (Raleigh) (www.exploris.org)

This internationally focused museum actually offers its own afterschool program that offers content designed to increase global awareness. School groups can tour the museum in groups, and museum activities are linked to the NC Standard Course of Study. The website also offers lesson plans as well as teacher research guides to accompany IMAX films.

NC Museum of Art (Raleigh) (www.ncartmuseum.org)

The museum's website offers resources for teachers as well as a comprehensive search engine that offers lesson plans and other resources online. The museum also offers specialized tours that cater toward student groups.

Ackland Museum of Art (Chapel Hill) (www.ackland.org)

The museum offers gallery visits for student groups as well as a number of other resources for K-12 teachers including curriculum kits with international themes.

The Mint Museums (Charlotte) (www.themintmuseums.org)

This museum offers a Latin American Resource Center as well as curriculum based lessons on world art. For more information contact: teachers@themintmuseums.org.

Fayetteville Museum of Art (Fayetteville)

(www.fayettevillemuseumart.org)

The museum offers a number of educational programs with an international focus. It also offers "Art Trunks" and "Art Duffles" on a number of subjects related to world cultures. After completing a training session, teachers can borrow these trunks for two weeks. Each trunk contains books, artifacts, cds, and other items. For more information call: (910-485-5121)

Wake Forest University Museum of Anthropology (Winston Salem) (www.wfu.edu/moa)

The museum offers curriculum based instruction on a number of internationally focused topics.

International School Partnership Resources

Friendship through Education

(www.friendshipthrougheducation.org)

This is a group of educational organizations that try to link up students in different countries to facilitate communication and work on projects. The site contains links to a number of partner organizations.

Epals.com (www.epals.com)

This site maintains a community of classrooms where students in different countries can send email and work together on projects.

International Education & Resource Network

(www.learn.org)

This site facilitates exchanges between students by mail, email, online projects, and teacher and student exchange.

Potential Partners

International Firms Doing Business in North Carolina

Commerce in North Carolina is becoming increasingly connected to the international community. The following link provides a county by county listing of all of the international firms located in North Carolina: (www.investnc.com/pubs/firms/). These businesses may serve as potential community partners in the quest to increase student awareness about international issues.

Nonprofit Organizations with an International Focus

Local community groups can be an important resource and offer a great deal of insight into the issues surrounding various ethnic groups. For example, El Pueblo (www.elpueblo.org) works directly on a number of issues facing the Latino community in North Carolina. Many other communities have similar organizations that are often more than willing to present to student groups about their experiences and the issues facing different groups.

Visiting International Faculty (www.vifprogram.com)

Many school districts in North Carolina have hired "highly qualified" international teachers to teach in their schools. If there are international faculty in your area, they represent an important resource to speak about their experiences.

Touring Artist Directory – North Carolina Arts Council

(www.ncarts.org)

The Arts Council offers a listing of artists and musicians willing to perform and present to school groups in the state. Many of these artists have an international focus.