

A Look at International Student Diversity

Arjun Reddy Baddam

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International Student Diversity

Introduction

It is believed that a student, Ms. Pauline Henninger, who hailed from Wurttemberg, Germany was the first international student enrolled in the then Indiana Normal School approximately in the year 1889. She attended Indiana Normal School for three academic years; but it does not appear that she graduated.

As the institution transformed into a state college, the culture became more diverse, as the school attracted students internationally in the Master's degree programs. It is believed that Joe Quotub, who was from Jordan could have been the first international student enrolled, graduated between 1940-49. During the next decade, Indiana State College witnessed an increase in enrollment with students coming from Hawaii, who was then considered an independent region. Although, this event brought some diversification within the student community, it was not until the end of 1960, that students hailing from other countries (refugees from Vietnam and Cuba) increased the international enrollment numbers even more. In some cases, the school even arranged housing facilities.

The progressive growth of the institution resulted in the establishment of Indiana State University, and transferred the campus into a rich community with varied nationalities and languages. Between 1980-90, a major event happened as students arrived in large numbers from Malaysia. Tentatively, there were about 700 students from Malaysia at that time. (Newton, 2013)

ISU currently represents large and rich diversified student body with representation from approx. 70 countries across the world, according to the data. Students from all continents come to ISU for pursuing various degree programs such as graduate, undergraduate to doctorate degrees. While there are students from all over the world, 95% of students at ISU are from United States.

The largest enrollment by any country so far is Saudi Arabia with approximately 2% representation in the year 2012. Students from Saudi Arabia are increasingly pursuing undergraduate and graduate programs in United States and ISU has been an attractive choice for

them. Although, there was an increase in Indian student population at ISU between years 2006-2008 with 1% representation, this trend has not continued and there has been a decrease in enrollment. All other countries have represented less than 1% between 1999 and 2012. The following tables show the total number of students enrolled by country between years (1999-2012)

Table 2.1: Top 5 Countries by Percentage Student Enrollment between 1999-2012

Year	United States	India	Saudi Arabia	Korea, Republic of	Taiwan, Republic of China
1999	95.37	0.44	0.15	0.68	0.38
2000	95.61	0.66	0.12	0.54	0.30
2001	95.77	0.93	0.11	0.49	0.22
2002	95.82	1.08	0.09	0.55	0.24
2003	95.95	0.99	0.10	0.54	0.32
2004	96.00	0.86	0.11	0.56	0.46
2005	95.81	0.97	0.09	0.52	0.57
2006	95.59	1.10	0.11	0.51	0.65
2007	95.96	1.12	0.42	0.33	0.63
2008	95.75	0.76	0.92	0.45	0.58
2009	95.38	0.96	1.04	0.49	0.47
2010	95.31	0.79	1.18	0.51	0.49
2011	95.00	0.61	1.39	0.55	0.40
2012	94.56	0.50	2.09	0.40	0.26

Table 2.2: Countries Ranked (5-10) by Percentage Student Enrollment by Nationality between 1999-2012

Year	Japan	China	Ivory Coast	United Arab Emirates	Nigeria
1999	0.70	0.33	0.16	0.05	0.04
2000	0.66	0.22	0.16	0.03	0.05
2001	0.64	0.19	0.22	0.01	0.04
2002	0.43	0.26	0.22	0.01	0.09
2003	0.41	0.26	0.18	0.03	0.08
2004	0.38	0.21	0.11	0.03	0.10
2005	0.37	0.27	0.11	0.04	0.08
2006	0.29	0.20	0.07	0.03	0.11
2007	0.18	0.19	0.04	0.00	0.08
2008	0.19	0.19	0.03	0.00	0.04
2009	0.18	0.29	0.01	0.00	0.06
2010	0.10	0.37	0.01	0.10	0.08
2011	0.11	0.52	0.03	0.34	0.06
2012	0.12	0.48	0.03	0.57	0.07

While ISU has students from all over the world, the percentage of enrollment has not shown a significant improvement in the past twelve years.

Conclusion

The major contribution of this article is in the data analysis and trends that show enrollment by race and by nationality over the past decade, which was not presented before in previous studies to the best of our knowledge. Another important contribution is the summary of data in diversity across race, gender and nationalities is all presented cohesively. This report

would enable the management and employees responsible for creating a diverse environment, to develop new programs and adapt on-going projects.

Challenges

The big challenge and impediment to this report is lack of information in electronic form, as well as wide sources of information. Some data is available in books, but it might take too much of school's resources to read them manually. Sources are spread across the university and there seems to be no structured program pertaining to collect data regarding international student diversity at a single location. There is also loss of information due to a fire accident in the year 1888. This report consists of some information which has no documented proof that was provided by employees that were associated with Archives department for a long time.

Recommendations

Digitization of information is recommended, if possible for future analysis and creation of diversity programs. We need to work in collaboration with other departments, such as the Library, the Archives and the Admissions to get access to data and as well as to keep up with changes and trends that might not be possible working independently. Regarding the achievements of the diversity programs at ISU, the continuous goal to create an equitable and culturally diverse environment appears to be showing signs of success with rise in enrollment in various races, nationalities and gender.

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Note:

Part of this report is based on the undocumented information from following employees who served long time at various important positions at ISU and had access to information. I am grateful for their time and effort.

Eric Holt, University Archivist - Special Collections Department - University Archives, ISU

Jerome Patrick Cline, Reporting Analyst, Office of Institutional Research, ISU

Dr. Gaston A Fernandez, Professor - Political Sciences, ISU

John Newton - Emeritus Vice President, Alumni Affairs and Constituent Relations - Indiana State University Foundation

Chris McGrew, Director - International Programs & Services, ISU

Other References:

Institutional Research, ISU

Library Archives, ISU

University Archives - Course Catalogs 1870 - 1980

Sycamore Yearbooks - 1865 - 1999

NOTE:

All the information in this report was checked for accuracy by contacting staff and personnel from ISU. High care was taken that all information was accurate, if you find any errors or any information you think should be on this report, please feel free to e-mail Arjun Baddam at abaddam@sycamores.indstate.edu