

CASE STUDY:

ALMA COLLEGE

WITH 98 PERCENT OF ITS STUDENTS RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID AND MOST COMING FROM homogeneous, rural communities, Alma College in Michigan is always looking to broaden its understanding of the world outside the United States. At the same time, it struggles to diversify its faculty and student body, giving the college even more reason to pursue campus internationalization.

In pursuit of both goals in 2006, Alma proposed to host a scholar from Turkey. With help from the Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence (SIR) Program, Alma College hosted Dr. Yavuz Demir, a literary scholar from Turkey's Ondokuz Mayıs University.

During his time at Alma College, Dr. Demir taught new classes on the literature of Turkish women and Sufi Islamic literature. He also helped Alma develop its Engaging Diversity collaborative course with Marygrove College in Detroit that helped students at both colleges discuss issues involving race, class and other cultural differences.

Through Dr. Demir's efforts, students and faculty learned more about Turkish culture. He successfully invited Turkish author Nedim Gürsel to speak at Alma (as well as at Central Michigan University and the University of Michigan) and give a reading of one of his stories; In addition, Dr. Demir also helped Alma arrange appearances for Gürsel at Central Michigan and the University of Michigan. Demir conducted a symposium on Turkey's efforts to join the European Union and its overall relationship with Europe.

For Alma College, the SIR Program brought cultural diversity and gave students and faculty a more international outlook on many issues. Your institution can enjoy similar benefits. Visit www.CIES.org for additional information, including tips on how to successfully apply for a Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence. Alma Ford, Program Officer for SIR, can also help you learn more about the program. Contact Ms. Ford at (202) 686-6252 or by e-mail at sirapps@cies.iie.org.

The deadline for proposals is **October 15, 2009**.

