

CASE STUDY:

## FRESNO CITY COLLEGE

AS A TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION LOCATED IN CALIFORNIA'S RURAL CENTRAL VALLEY, FRESNO City College serves a student body that is more than 40 percent Latino. This, along with the Hispanic-Serving Institution's mission to offer innovative programs that anticipate and respond to its students' lifelong learning needs, means that Fresno's administrators and chief academic officers need to emphasize internationalization.

Fresno wanted to improve its curricula diversity by inviting a Political Philosophy scholar from Eastern Europe. Fresno quickly took advantage of the Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence (SIR) Program's commitment to improving diversity and institutional capacity by asking the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) program staff to recruit an Eastern European scholar on its behalf.

CIES found Ewa Binczyk of Instytut Filozofii UMK in Poland. At Fresno, Dr. Binczyk teamed up with the Philosophy faculty to revise and internationalize the existing curricula. She also taught an introductory course on ancient and modern social and political philosophies. Working with instructors within the history, geography and political Science departments, Binczyk developed interdisciplinary presentations that showed the connections between philosophy and other disciplines within Fresno's academic life.

As a keynote speaker for the Fresno Philosophy Lecture Series, Dr. Binczyk drew participants from throughout the surrounding community. This helped burnish Fresno's community presence. She also spoke before the Rotary Club and at the University of California, Merced. Dr. Binczyk helped bolster Fresno's profile in the philosophy discipline (and her own lecturing and research) when she attended the American Philosophical Association's annual conference.

For Fresno, the small cost-share it invested in order to get SIR Program funding brought numerous benefits to its students, faculty and surrounding community. Your institution can enjoy similar benefits. Visit [www.CIES.org](http://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 answer questions and provide further advice. Contact Ms. Ford at (202) 686-6252 or at [sirapps@cies.iie.org](mailto:sirapps@cies.iie.org).

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

