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## **Proposal: Task Force for Global Education in Pennsylvania**

PACIE, a global education advocacy organization since 1969, requests the assembly of a Task Force for Global Education in Pennsylvania. This task force would comprise members of PACIE, primary, middle and secondary and higher education communities, legislators, and representatives from PDE, the Department of Community and Economic Development, and the private sector. This task force will define global competence for Pennsylvania, as well as identify/design an assessment tool to measure global competence with minimal impact on the state budget. The goal of the Task Force will be to assess the status of Global Education in Pennsylvania and recommend a delivery mechanism to ensure students from grades K-20 become *Global Ready Graduates for PA's Future*. How? Through a mix of existing resources and programs with technology.

### **Why Global Education? Why Now?**

Pennsylvania's Department of Labor & Industry describes the need for the state's workforce development system to enable "businesses and workers to compete in the worldwide, knowledge-based economy. The workforce system enhances employer competitiveness and innovation while preparing Pennsylvanians for jobs that pay in an economy that grows, supports families and businesses. "

The Pennsylvania economy functions as an interconnected and interdependent model within an increasingly competitive global environment. Discipline knowledge is crucial for the 21<sup>st</sup> c workforce development, but employers also need employees to effectively function in a team that could be diverse in language, values and perspectives of geopolitics, world cultures and business practices, to name a few. Data suggests that educating Commonwealth students for the competitive global marketplace has gained traction in some sectors, given that:

- If viewed as a country, Pennsylvania is the 27<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world.
- More and more U.S. jobs are linked to international trade particularly in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and health sciences. Pennsylvania is host to top quality, internationally-recognized universities for STEM education.
- Currently, 6,500 international companies employ 300,000 people within the Commonwealth.
- By 2010, 40,000 immigrant-owned businesses in Pennsylvania represented 8.2% of the economy of \$2.2 billion in annual income.
- By 2013, Pennsylvania exports exceeded \$56 billion. Education is a key export; it plays a critical role in all of these sectors as roughly 50% of the STEM graduates are foreign-born. International students in Pennsylvania increased by 104% in the last ten years. Their total financial contribution to Pennsylvania economy was \$1.58 billion in 2014-15.
- As of 2014, the total number of immigrants residing in PA eclipsed 750,000 for a total population of 5.9%. Growth in the foreign-born population increased 49.6% between 2000-2013. Some of these changes have yielded decidedly positive impacts; others have been more challenging. Our students must graduate with the skills and compassion to understand the diverse members of society.