

Executive Summary

Internationalization at an Historically Black College Bennett College for Women A Case Study

Gwendolyn M. Bookman, Esq.

Bennett College is a small, private, historically black, four year liberal arts college for women in Greensboro, North Carolina. It is one of only two colleges in the United States for black women. The college has had a rich history of global engagement and in this case study, Bookman traces the college's history beginning in the 1950s under the leadership of Dr. Willa B. Player, the college's first female president, to the present, to describe the internationalization process that has taken place. The case study outlines the foundation that has been laid at Bennett by the enhancement of the curriculum in courses with global content, by the offering of critical and less commonly taught languages, by the global professional development opportunities for faculty and staff, by global experiences available for students and by the presence and active engagement of international students and scholars.

Bookman concludes the case study by specifying the most critical components for successful internationalization: (1) clearly articulated institutional commitment at the highest levels of the administration; (2) appropriate structures and staffing to carry out programs and activities; (3) curricula and co-curricula components; (4) meaningful partnerships with various external institutions; and (5) financial resources to underwrite global education programs.