SHAPING THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL EDUCATION

The AIEA 2026 Innovative Excellence in Internationalization Award

The Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) is pleased to present the Innovative Excellence in Internationalization Award to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) in recognition of its College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS) Global Learning Lab.

Launched in Spring 2024, the CAHSS Global Learning Lab exemplifies visionary leadership in advancing comprehensive internationalization through an innovative faculty learning community. This initiative expands access to applied global learning opportunities—such as faculty-led study abroad programs, Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) courses, and intentional curriculum mapping—ensuring that global engagement is accessible to all students, including those historically underrepresented in education abroad.

The Global Learning Lab reflects UMBC's commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) by fostering inclusive, cost-effective models that integrate global perspectives into the curriculum. Through a cohort-based approach, faculty participants design projects that embed intercultural learning into academic programs. The Lab's impact is evident: four curriculum mapping projects, four new COIL courses, and eleven faculty-led study abroad programs have emerged from its first year, with strong participation from students who identify as racial or ethnic minorities, first-generation college students, and those with high financial need.

This collaborative effort between the CAHSS Dean's Office and the Center for Global Engagement demonstrates UMBC's strategic vision and institutional commitment to global learning. By creating a replicable model for integrating applied global learning into diverse disciplines, the CAHSS Global Learning Lab advances UMBC's mission as a leader in inclusive excellence and global engagement.

AIEA congratulates the University of Maryland, Baltimore County on receiving this year's Innovative Excellence in Internationalization Award.