Sunway-WMU strategic alliance ensures quality US degrees

By TINA MELAN

Sunway College and its American twinning programme partner, Western Michigan University, guarantees a high-quality programme, producing high-quality graduates.

With Sunway College's reputation as one of the leading private colleges in the country and WMU, ranked as one of the 100 Best Buys Colleges in the US, the twinning programme ensures its students can earn a quality American degree.

WMU is one of the 300 institutions of higher learning in the US to be accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

It was placed at the 19th position for undergraduate and masters programme in the Engineering studies by the US News College Ranking.

"Ours is the most established American twinning programme in the country and we are glad that most of our students complete their degree courses after transferring to the US," said WMU programme resident director at Sunway College Professor Richard W. Pippen.

Unlike other twinning courses, the Sunway/WMU twinning programmes are based on the American system of education which requires students to take a number of general subjects in addition to their chosen field of study.

The twinning programmes allow students to go directly into university studies without taking up formal pre-university courses.

Since the twinning programmes were introduced at Sunway College in 1987, more than 2,000 students have successfully transferred to the university to pursue a US degree.

The college offers a wide variety of twinning programmes including Business Administration, Engineering, Computer Science, Mass Communications and Natural Sciences.

Pippen said he was very pleased to see a significant increase in the number of students taking up Psychology over the last two years.

"Currently, there are more than 20 students enrolled for the Psychology course and we feel encouraged to see more and more students entered for other twinning programmes every year," he said.

He said one of his main duties at Sunway College was to ensure quality education and one way of doing this was to ensure that the syllabus, textbooks and other materials used for the programmes were the same as those used at WMU.

An important aspect of the programmes is the opportunity given to students to put into practice what they have learned in classes.

Recently, 35 students enrolled for Business Studies held a one-day jamboree sale at the campus in Bandar Sunway.

It was a class project for them to demonstrate their marketing and sales skills.

Students went about doing their job in a confident and professional manner. For the benefit of students, the college also invites experts from the US to give talks on subjects relevant to the twinning programmes.

The most recent was a lecture by Professor Faye Belgrave from the Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University.

She delivered a talk on "Mental Health, AIDS and Cultural Diversity".

In another series of lectures, Professor Dr Dennis Pence from WMU's Department of Mathematics was invited.

Pence spoke on usage of graphic calculator in Mathematics.

Currently, there are 260 students attending various American twinning programmes at Sunway College.

Students at Sunway study in a 'global' atmosphere, as there are 800 international students from 46 countries attending the college.

The students come from many parts of the world, including Brunei, the Maldives, Oman, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey, Canada, Korea, Kyrgyzstan and Iraq.

The next intake for the American twinning programmes is September 7. The entry qualification is Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia or its equivalent.

Sunway College also considers advanced entry for students who possess A-level, Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia or their equivalent.

For more information on Sunway College/WMU twinning programmes and other courses, call (03) 735 8622 or fax (03) 735-8633.

PENCE: Visiting lecturer from WMU who spoke on usage of graphic calculator in Mathematics
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