

IUP INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM SEEKING COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOR PROGRAM

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INDIANA, Pa. -- Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Office of International Education is looking for members of the community to be part of the International Friendship Program.

This program seeks to promote international understanding by matching local community members with international students and scholars attending IUP. Participants act as contacts and resources to the international students and scholars, but have no financial obligation, and, since this is not a home-stay program, students do not live with community member participants.

Community volunteers are asked to meet with their student or scholar once a month to maintain the friendship; during periods when schedules are busy, telephone calls and e-mails are ways to bridge the gap between personal visits.

International students or scholars and community members are matched for the length of one academic year (August through May); matches can also be made mid-year.

Every year, hundreds of international students and scholars come to Indiana to study, research, or learn English; yet, many of them will never step foot inside an American home. The International Friendship Program seeks to promote international understanding by developing friendships between community members and international students and scholars.

For community volunteers, the program offers an opportunity to learn about another culture, expand awareness of the diversity of the world, and is a practical way to promote cultural exchange and peace between nations.

New community member applicants are required to attend a short orientation prior to participating in the program. During this orientation, community members will receive a handbook that outlines the goals and expectations of the program, participate in a workshop aimed to enhance their experience with their international match, and receive answers to any questions that they might have.

For questions or more information, persons may call the Office of International Education at 724-357-2295 or e-mail OIE-IFP@iup.edu.