

Remarks by Andy Tompkins
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States Institute on International Education in the Schools
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- ✓ Why is international education important in Kansas?
 - There are over 70 languages spoken in our schools
 - Spanish is the second most commonly spoken language and Vietnamese is third
 - Other languages frequently spoken in Kansas include Cambodian, Laotian, Taiwanese, Korean, Japanese, Chinese, and German and we have one community that is predominantly Swedish
 - There are over 7,000 international students enrolled in postsecondary institutions
 - According to the 2003 U.S. Department of Commerce statistics, Kansas exports over \$5.8 billion worth of products to foreign markets with wheat and aircraft as the main products. However, other grains and beef also are important exports to Kansas.
 - Exports to Japan, South Korea, and China account for nearly \$1 billion in annual revenue – note recent trade mission to Japan for beef exports
 - According to a statewide school survey, 98% of parents felt their students needed to be knowledgeable about international studies.

- ✓ How are you defining the need for more knowledge of the world and how have you engaged Kansans in learning these perspectives?
 - Through world events, business interests, response to parental interest
 - Spoken about this in a number of venues

- ✓ Which important first steps has Kansas taken to address the need in both policy and programs?
 - Our most recent history, government, geography, and economics standards foster the teaching of international studies and the interconnectedness of world events.
 - Course titles such as East Asian Studies, International Business, International Arts and Culture, and World Literature are not uncommon in Kansas high schools.

- In Kansas, we have organized the Kansas Council on International Education which is housed at the University of Kansas and led by Bill Titzui that has a part of its mission the training of teachers in the content knowledge for incorporating foreign nations and cultures into Kansas schools. Additionally, many campus based and online courses have been developed to further understanding of practicing professional educators about the diverse students they serve.
 - We have a group of state and local educators who are currently on a trip to China.
 - We have been encouraging Fulbright Fellowships for educators and especially school district leaders and others who are in decision making roles.
- ✓ What will the state try to accomplish in the next year? What are your longer term goals/commitments?
- KSDE will be partnering with the Kansas Trade Commission to increase awareness of Kansas in the world. This new knowledge must go both ways.
 - Also, KSDE is partnering with the Kansas Civics Commission to increase not only civic participation in the local communities but also with a focus on civic service for the international communities of Kansas by teaching English and assisting in transitioning to the community and culture of Kansas.
- ✓ How best can the federal government provide leadership and incentives to states like Kansas?
- I believe the appropriate federal role is to provide models of curriculum and instruction, to foster linkages between schools and states in the U.S. with those throughout the world, and to model the importance of this through the political process
- ✓ Our hope is to develop a comprehensive and incremental strategy that fosters understanding and builds momentum