

UNIVERSITY RECEIVES GRANT FROM HARVARD PILGRIM'S HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION FOR DIVERSITY ASSESSMENT

(From Rivier Today, Spring 2014)

Rivier has been awarded a \$60,000 technical assistance grant from Culture Insight, a unit of Harvard Pilgrim's Health Care Foundation, to perform a campus-wide diversity and cultural competence needs assessment. This grant will support development of a comprehensive plan to advance these diversity initiatives over the next several years.

This diversity initiative comes at an opportune time in the University's history. New and expanded efforts in the Office for Global Engagement, growing student participation in study abroad and international field experiences, and increases in international student enrollments have set the stage for a powerful exchange of ideas. Since January 2014, Rivier has welcomed more than 80 graduate students from India, Spain, and several other countries; and an additional 50–70 international graduate students will join the community in fall 2014.

The project's research phase began this spring. In anticipation of goal setting in fall 2014, the University collected benchmark data from faculty, administration, staff, and students. The collection process included interviews, focus groups, and the distribution of an assessment questionnaire developed by the recently appointed Diversity Council. The Council will use the information gathered through these questionnaires to formulate preliminary diversity and inclusion objectives and set measurable plan goals.

"I encourage all community members to actively take part in this important work," says Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM, President. "As a global community of educators and learners, it is our responsibility and privilege to engage in this dialogue. Diversity increases our engagement with the world and drives creativity and innovation." ■