



# The Importance of “International”

By Erin K. Green, MBA, RSBA

Now is the time for ASBO to advance its international collaboration.

**T**he fact that our students must understand the globalized society in which they will soon work means that we, as masters of the resource universe, must also understand it. Now is the time for ASBO to advance its international collaboration.

Recently, I spoke (electronically) to the professor who heads up the SBO program at the National College for Leadership in Manchester, UK; the president of the Association of Business Managers in Victorian State Schools, Australia; an Australian university professor who is writing about the evolution of education business management; a director of finance and administration programs in Cape Town South Africa; and a school business official in the United States. Is there something to be learned by opening up the borders? You bet! Here are excerpts from some of their comments.

## Linda Lee (Australia)

Although our working environments may differ, we all want to provide every child with every opportunity in life and the best experience in their school environments. We want our students to be global citizens, so we need mentors and leaders who understand the global perspective. The expansion of any network internationally opens the way for the sharing of knowledge and new ideas.

## Trevor Summerson (United Kingdom)

I am convinced that the international element will take on a greater level of importance for ASBO because much of what we do requires international cooperation. Just think of sustainable development/environmental issues that 10 to 20 years ago hardly got a mention. Now they are center stage in political terms and, in England, an area where the SBM/SBO is dominant. But we all know that sustainable development requires cooperation at an international level.

In many countries, school business management is a fledgling profession. ASBO has a real

opportunity to take the lead and drive the profession forward.

## David Ginsberg (South Africa)

ASBO has the privilege of being the only organization in the world that I am aware of that has a global vision for school business managers. Consequently, we have a concomitant responsibility to show leadership.

We need an international body that traverses areas beyond collegiality for many reasons, including pursuit of international best practices, research and development, standards development, support, professional development in developing countries, collaboration on projects that enhance our roles, and advocacy.

By focusing on our profession . . . we will continue to be relevant and support teaching and learning at a higher level.

## Mark Pepera (United States)

While growing any organization has its challenges, the further expansion of ASBO in conjunction with our international partners not only makes good business sense, but allows members access to the exponential growth of the global learning community.

If taking advantage of global learning opportunities is proven to be advantageous for our students and faculty, why not school business officials? Now is the time to embrace such an opportunity.

The real question is this: Who will do this if not ASBO?

Visit ASBO's Website ([www.asbointl.org](http://www.asbointl.org)) to read these comments in their entirety.

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