

Message from the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Cleveland State University has become a hub of exciting new developments in the health sciences, education, and the arts, just to name a few areas. The proposed Visiting Polish Scholar program will be a natural addition to this vibrant campus life. Since coming to the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences in 2005, I have continuously worked to build international partnerships and programs with countries as diverse as Korea and France, Turkey and Slovenia. The Visiting Polish Scholar program is one more step in fashioning a global context for the work of the college. It is also a big step in linking the college back to an especially important ethnic community in Greater Cleveland. Because we live in an era of shrinking state support for public universities, we cannot rely on state dollars to fund this important idea. That's why I hope that, if you share my enthusiasm for Polish Studies, you will help me to build a funding base to make this program a reality. Thank you for your continued support of Cleveland State University!

Gregory M. Sadlek
Dean



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This statue is of Tadeusz Kościuszko.



VISITING POLISH SCHOLAR PROGRAM

at Cleveland State University

Given the rich heritage of Polish migration to the Greater Cleveland area, leaders of the Polish American community of Northeast Ohio have long noted the need not only to preserve the Polish cultural legacy but also to foster a more sophisticated understanding of contemporary Polish and Eastern European language, history, and culture among second and third-generation Polish Americans. The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Cleveland State University is poised to address these concerns. We are committed to both local engagement and global education, and developing a program of Polish Studies in our college is an excellent way to serve both purposes.

In October of 2010, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Warsaw, creating a new and promising partnership between Cleveland State University and the University of Warsaw, the premiere educational institution in Poland. Specifically, we have committed ourselves to developing student and faculty exchanges as well as to exploring joint research initiatives. The creation of this partnership was facilitated by the Kosciuszko Foundation, which saw the necessity of nurturing Polish Studies in Cleveland, an important hub of Polonia.

The Concept:

The College is proud to announce the creation of the Visiting Polish Scholar Program at Cleveland State University in conjunction with our partner, the University of Warsaw. This program will bring a visiting Polish scholar to the Cleveland State campus for one semester every two years to teach courses on Polish and Eastern European history, culture, and the arts. The Visiting Scholar will not only interact with the Cleveland State student body, but will also reach out to the local Polish heritage community in Greater Cleveland by attending local cultural events and giving lectures appropriate for general audiences. This program is based on the notably successful CSU India Scholar Program, which for years has been bringing scholars from India to teach on campus and to interact with the local Indian community in Greater Cleveland. We know the model works well; we now need to raise the funds to implement it for the Polish American community.

Your role:

Working in concert with the Cleveland State University Foundation, the leadership of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences is asking the local Polish American community to help us raise the necessary financial support, as well as to provide key leadership in this campaign. Gifts are being sought from individuals and foundations with an interest in Polish history, arts and culture. Gifts received will be placed in an endowed fund with interest earned being used to support the position of the Visiting Polish Scholar. Together with in-kind support from the university, funding from this account will cover a full-time faculty contract at market value, including funds for faculty development for one Polish scholar for one full academic semester every two years. The Visiting Scholar will be chosen by a select committee of representatives from both the CSU faculty and local Polish American community leaders.

