

December 20, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UW-River Falls enters into agreement with Yeungjin College

International student exchanges between the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and South Korea's Yeungjin College should become more common under a new agreement between the institutions.

Yeungjin College, a two-year technical and community college located in southeastern South Korea, sent 18 students to UWRF in fall 2015 to begin international exchanges between the institutions. Those exchanges will continue under a new "two-plus-two" agreement signed last month.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for students to broaden their horizons," said UW-River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen. "We have had UWRF students visit South Korea to teach in English immersion programs and as part of our commitment to international engagement, we are very pleased to host South Korean students in return."

Most Yeungjin students who visit UW-River Falls are products of the Daegu Gyeongbuk English Village, named for the Korean city and province in which it is located. It is affiliated with Yeungjin College.

The village offers additional training to Korean students of all ages in using English in an experiential learning environment.

Youngsoo Margolis, director of Korean Partnerships in UWRF's College of Arts and Sciences, was directly involved in negotiating the agreement.

"The program is only just beginning, but it has great potential," Margolis said. "Eventually the hope is to offer scholarship assistance for those students traveling to Korea for longer periods of time, such as two semesters."

The majority of the Yeungjin students study agricultural engineering, though the school also offers computer science and hospitality degrees.

“Their goal is to get students working right away,” Margolis said. “But some students want more education in English and these are the students we see coming here.”

Eventually, the hope is that UW-River Falls will send students in equal numbers to South Korea. The approval process for American students to travel to South Korea, however, can take 4-6 months and sometimes student circumstances change.

“They (Yeungjin) would love to have our students,” Margolis said. “They need help with language and cultural exchanges and for them, they need American students. It’s a great opportunity for students to experience a different culture as part of their higher education experience.”

For more information, email youngsoo.margolis@uwrf.edu or call 715-425-4402.

###

Photo: UW-River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen, left, traveled to South Korea in November to meet with officials from Yeungjin College including Jaeyoung Choi, right. While in South Korea, Chancellor Van Galen signed an exchange agreement with Yeungjin College which will allow students of the two institutions to share international study experiences.