

# GLOBAL INITIATIVES

*How Penn State can be a positive force all over the map*

**OF PENN STATE'S 92,000 STUDENTS,** about 2,500 study abroad each year. That number "could be better," said Dr. Michael Adewumi, vice provost for International Programs. "We would like our students to become global citizens; when they go out into the workforce they should be able to work with everyone."

Adewumi, who is responsible for overseeing the international engagements of the University, is a firm believer in the slogan "think globally, act locally." Studying abroad is a way to instill this philosophy in students, he explained. "Employers want more out of graduates; they need them to be globally competent." To achieve this, his office is working with deans, chancellors and faculty across the University to integrate more international experiences into the curricula.

This initiative is part of Adewumi's vision for Penn State to play a bigger global role. "We have enormous intellectual resources," he said. "Penn State is already a national powerhouse. It can also be a positive force globally."

## **Intellectual Resources for Change**

The idea is not a new one for Adewumi. Before being appointed vice provost, Adewumi, who is from Nigeria and also a professor of petroleum and natural gas engineering, served as director of the Alliance for Earth Sciences, Engineering and Development in Africa (AESEDA). AESEDA is a partnership between scholars at U.S. and African universities, governments of African nations, and aid organizations to rebuild Africa's depleted human and natural resources. "The idea is to change things for the better using intellectual



**Michael Adewumi wants to expand Penn State's teaching, research and outreach worldwide.**

resources," said Adewumi. "Penn State can help engineer growth in Africa, just as it does in the Commonwealth."

Now, Adewumi is looking to expand Penn State's leadership around the globe through teaching, research and outreach.

For example, in one program, Penn State Outreach's World Campus worked with the Smeal College of Business to offer a tailored curriculum in supply chain management to Saudi Arabia-based Aramco employees. "This type of program can be expanded: Students can go to Saudi Arabia, and faculty can partner with and travel to other existing institutions," said Adewumi.

Another example of international

collaboration is a partnership between several universities and the Nigerian government to build a Center of Excellence in Mining in Nigeria. This initiative involves faculty members in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. It is run through AESEDA and led by Dr. Thaddeus Ityokumbul.

These are opportunities that make Adewumi eager to get out of bed and go to work in the morning. "If you look back at when Penn State was founded, nobody would have imagined that it would become this world-class institution," he said. "Being a part of it is just so exciting."

For more information, go to <http://www.international.psu.edu>.