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Professors Strengthen Collaboration with Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University

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Two professors from Sacred Heart University, Rupendra Paliwal and Andrew Miller, recently traveled to India to plan the first joint academic initiative between SHU and Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDPU) this summer. Sacred Heart University signed a letter of intent last fall with PDPU to develop a relationship of sharing faculty and educational opportunities, including a study abroad program, for the students of both institutions. The heart of the agreement is “to establish ties of friendship and cooperation for the purpose of promoting mutual understanding and academic, cultural and personnel exchange.”

Paliwal, Sacred Heart’s vice president for Strategic Planning and acting provost, first fostered a relationship with PDPU in 2012 while attending an international conference in New York City. Given the nature of today’s global network, Paliwal said, the partnership presented a way of introducing SHU and PDPU students “to the academic, research, industry and cultural facets of the two universities.” Initial focus of the collaboration is in the academic areas of business administration, finance and mass communication.

As part of this agreement, Paliwal and Miller went to India in January to offer two-week sessions on Finance and Communication respectively. Paliwal and Miller also consulted with the PDPU faculty and administrators to strengthen their curriculum and facilities for finance and communication programs. Next, PDPU faculty will visit Sacred Heart with 60 of their students for a four-week summer institute in July. “For the summer program, we think we have a dynamic offering of educational in-class work that is
complemented by great excursions to New York City and Boston," said Miller. "We are looking forward to continuing this relationship through the summer and beyond."

Thirty of the PDPU students attending the summer institute will study communications and media in the School of Communication and Media Arts (SCMA), and 30 will study business in the Welch College of Business. Communications Professors Andrew Miller and Sally Ross along with Business faculty Kwamie Dunbar and Sean Heffron will coordinate the summer institute.