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Shi, Furman join leadership group's advocacy work for liberal arts

Furman University

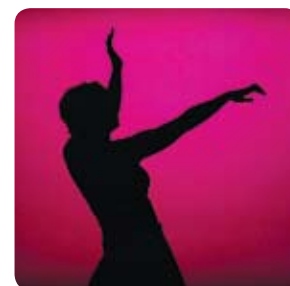
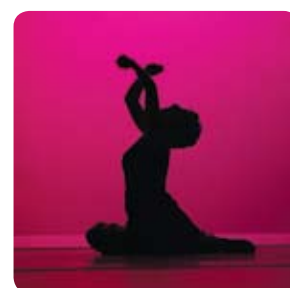
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Dancing around the world

The International Students Association presented its annual “Cultural Rhythms” dance program November 11 in McAlister Auditorium. The show featured a variety of dances which, through movement, costume and music, represented different countries’ cultures, beliefs and history. The group presents the program annually with the goal of bringing the world closer to Furman and the Greenville community. Photos by Jeremy Fleming.



Shi, Furman join leadership group’s advocacy work for liberal arts

As he completes his final year as president of Furman, David Shi is among 82 college and university presidents and chancellors working to make the case for the value of liberal arts education in the 21st century.

Established by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the Presidents’ Trust is a leadership group within the AAC&U’s national initiative, “Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP): Excellence for Everyone as a Nation Goes to College.”

“A liberal arts education is important because it exposes students to a wide array of subjects and helps them learn to think critically and creatively,” says Shi. “It pushes them to look

beyond traditional boundaries for answers, to challenge inherited assumptions and embrace new ideas. Most important, a liberal arts education fosters a thirst for lifelong learning.”

The group is serving as an advocate for liberal arts education on economic, civic and student recruitment fronts. It aims to integrate liberal arts and professional preparation on campuses and chart a new direction for assessment and accountability.

AAC&U president Carol Geary Schneider says the Presidents’ Trust is striving to “help ensure that all college students in all majors receive the kind of excellent education they deserve — one that provides them with broad

knowledge, sophisticated intellectual and practical skills, a well-developed sense of personal and social responsibility, and the capacity to apply learning to new problems.”

The Presidents’ Trust will also hold regional and national meetings to discuss the purposes and practices of liberal arts education. The group believes that such education in the 21st century should empower individuals with core knowledge and transferable skills, cultivate social responsibility and a strong sense of ethics and values, and prepare graduates for socially valued work and for civic leadership.