



**IERC Education Foundation**

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## **INNOVATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM TARGETS DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BASEBALL INDUSTRY**

The Dominican Republic Sports & Education Academy (DRSEA), and the IERC Education Foundation (IERCEF) today announced the creation of a pilot program to place interns from U.S. colleges and universities in the baseball industry in the Dominican Republic, beginning Summer 2012. Interns will learn a variety of aspects with regards to the operations of Dominican sport entities, giving them vital insight into the baseball industry at a fundamental level not usually accessible to those outside the industry, creating a unique and enriching study abroad experience.

The internship incorporates a cultural aspect; interns will explore the history, politics, culture, and the economic and social developments taking place in the Dominican Republic. They will have the opportunity to visit significant historical, cultural and ecological sites in various towns in the Dominican Republic, further broadening the experience.

IERCEF developed the North Carolina Study Abroad/Global Engagement Consortium (NC SAGE). It is a collaborative to increase study abroad for under-represented students attending HBCUs. It represents 41,000 students and 11 institutions.

"This Baseball Internship pilot is about sports management industry education. What DRSEA and IERCEF have done is apply it to a relevant international landscape." said Steven W. Jones. "For example, three out of the 11 NC SAGE Consortium members offer bachelors of science degrees in sports management. This is a very competitive industry; we want to offer motivated students a chance to

strengthen their own value propositions, demonstrate institutional relevance and differentiate themselves in the marketplace." All of us have private-sector backgrounds and know how eye-catching, out-of-the-box experiences like this are. But to make it work requires strong, profit-nonprofit partnerships to achieve and sustain ability." he added. More information on the IERCEF is available at [www.iercef.org](http://www.iercef.org).

Charles S. Farrell, co-founder of the DRSEA, said the project is an opportunity for interns to learn the basic operations of key contributors to baseball operations around the world. "The Dominican Republic is second only to the United States in contributing players to Major League baseball; more than \$125 million is spent annually on the sport in the Dominican Republic. For interns to learn how the Dominican baseball industry operates is going to give them significant experience that can't be obtained elsewhere, experience that will prepare them for careers in the business of sports.

"We also expect that these interns will contribute substantially to the education of young baseball prospects in the Dominican Republic, in keeping with the DRSEA's commitment to broadening the educational opportunities for youth in the country."

The mission of the DRSEA is to educate young and gifted student athletes, help develop their baseball and other sports skills and give them the tools to succeed in life on and off the field. Through a rigorous educational component, student athletes will be prepared to make an impact on the world around them and have an opportunity for scholarships to colleges and universities in the United States and abroad. More information on the DRSEA is available at [www.drsea.org](http://www.drsea.org).

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