Student and scholar exchange begins with Aligarh Muslim University in India

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The Michigan State University College of Engineering will exchange students and scholars with one of India’s top-ranked research universities following the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding agreement with Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

The agreement, which was signed in June, will enhance an exchange of ideas and develop a stronger understanding of cultural and scientific skills, said Leo Kempel, acting dean of the MSU College of Engineering. “We are very pleased to formalize this partnership with Aligarh Muslim University. Our goal is to promote academic and scientific cooperation and to explore internship and research opportunities that include applied and community-based research projects.”

Syed Hashsham, an MSU professor of civil and environmental engineering, served as host during a visit in June by Lt. Gen. (Retired) Zameer Uddin Shah, vice chancellor of AMU. Kempel, Manoochehr Koochesfahani, associate dean for Graduate Students and Faculty Development, and Mary Anne Walker, director of International Engineering programs, participated in the signing ceremony that was held in MSU’s College of Engineering.

Hashsham said the two universities are already collaborating in key areas of mutual scientific interest and he anticipates there will be an international exchange of students and faculty members. “We are interested in the possibility of conducting joint workshops and symposia, and in writing collaborative projects that will benefit both institutions,” he said. “It will offer diverse opportunities and a global engagement that will be welcomed at both campuses.”

Aligarh Muslim University

AMU, which is considered among the Top Ten universities in India, is located in the Northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. Founded in 1875, today’s modern university has 32,000 students, 2,000 faculty members and is located about 90 miles southeast of the capital city, New Delhi. The publicly funded university has 12 colleges including Engineering & Technology, Law, Medicine and Management Studies & Research, 109 academic departments, serving
both undergraduate and graduate students. The University also maintains a number of specialized colleges, institutes, centers and schools, most notably are Women’s College, Interdisciplinary Biotechnology Unit, Zakir Hussain College of Engineering & Technology, the 1000-bed Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, and University Polytechnic.

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