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### SLSC Abstract of the Proposal for the Foreign Study Program in Sierra Leone

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**AN ABSTRACT OF**  
**A PROPOSAL FOR A FOREIGN STUDY PROGRAM IN**  
**COMPARATIVE EDUCATION**

**Submitted by Otterbein College, January 8, 1969**

It is proposed that Otterbein College offer a program in comparative education for prospective teachers. The program would provide through direct experience an opportunity to expand the teacher candidate's concept of education, social values, and inter-cultural relationships.

Sierra Leone, West Africa, was chosen for the pilot project because of the close ties many of the leaders in the country have with Otterbein College and the opportunity it affords students to analyze the role of education in economic, political, and social change in a developing nation. The proposed program has been approved by the Ministry of Education and other educational leaders of Sierra Leone. The Faculty of Otterbein College has approved the program and the 1969-70 catalog will carry a description of the program.

Fifteen students who have been formally admitted to the elementary or secondary teacher preparatory program of Otterbein College will be selected to participate in the Sierra Leone study during the Winter Term of the student's junior year for a period of ten weeks. During the Autumn Term preceding the field study, the participating students will study the culture, government, and educational system of Sierra Leone. While in Sierra Leone, the students will work with the Sierra Leone teachers on a participation or teacher aid basis, attend some classes for teachers in a college or university, and prepare a research project on a topic related to education, social values, or the culture of Sierra Leone. On return to the Otterbein College campus, the students will be asked to summarize their experiences and relate them to teaching situations they are likely to experience.

The College will grant four courses of academic credit for the Sierra Leone project. While the primary objective of the program is to prepare teachers better, it is expected that students not participating in the project will also benefit through formal class sharing and informal student conversations.

Evaluation will be an integral part of the program. Data will assist in improving the Foreign Study Program as more will be learned about its operation. It is expected that the experience will change attitudes in the direction of aesthetic growth and appreciation. It will give the means for the participant to continue his life with a heightened awareness of himself, his world, and whatever understandings he gains can be applied throughout his life. He will expand his concept of education, social culture, inter-cultural relationships, and be of service to others. This experience will enable the participant to gain continuity of experience necessary for development of complex skills of planning and evaluation; to gain depth of understanding of the teaching role; to gain insight into the contributions of other people; and, to gain confidence in his development of leadership.

The program is planned for three years of operation subject to annual evaluation. A comprehensive study of the effectiveness of the program will be made after three years operation and recommendations will be made concerning the future of the program.