

Reflecting on My Journey: A Farewell Message

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Reflecting on my 17 years at KCUFS, I am filled with gratitude for our shared journey of collective efforts. My teaching career spans 42 years, during which I have supported English language education and fostered global citizenship through community engagement. At KCUFS, I had the opportunity to contribute to pioneering initiatives such as the International Office, Model United Nations (MUN), the International Communication Course (ICC), and the Kobe Global Education Center, all of which have encouraged global competence and cultural understanding.

In September 2023, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 77/336 on Model United Nations, highlighting KCUFS's commitment to global education through MUN programs. This resolution encourages Member States to support MUN organizations, recognizing their significant contributions to diplomacy, international cooperation, and the development of young people in international affairs. I am immensely proud that KCUFS is the first Japanese university to incorporate MUN into its curriculum using English as a lingua franca.

Over the years from 2007, my colleagues and I have prepared KCUFS students to participate in 63 MUN simulations within our classrooms, through collaborations with universities across Japan, and in nine other countries. We have created a diverse and transdisciplinary learning environment, uniting undergraduate, graduate, and JLP students, as well as participants from the Hyogo Consortium and Gaidai Rengo. KCUFS has hosted eight MUN conferences, including two pioneering online conferences during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2016 and 2022, we became the first Japanese university to partner with the National Model United Nations (NMUN), the oldest and largest MUN organization worldwide, and host its conferences. This partnership provided our

students with invaluable global leadership opportunities. Through KCUFS's investment in MUN education and community engagement, we have amplified our impact locally and globally, cultivating a legacy of excellence. None of this would have been possible without the support and collaboration of stakeholders within our university.

Since joining the United Nations Academic Impact program in 2015, I have felt a deep sense of pride in supporting our university's commitment to advancing peace, human rights, sustainability, and global citizenship. In 2008, I started a Service Learning seminar in my International Relations Department, drawing from my volunteer teaching experience in Africa, to enable students to use English as a lingua franca while engaging with communities in need. This initiative not only fostered civic responsibility but was also reflected in 95 graduation theses in English. These theses showcased our students' dedication to serving various communities, including children and families, the elderly, the environment, migrants and refugees, orphans, those with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.

What initially attracted me to KCUFS was the opportunity to join the Graduate School of English Language Education and Research (GSELER), renowned for its focus on reflective practice. As a co-founder of a successful English partial-immersion program in a Japanese high school in 1989, I was motivated to support practicing teachers in building their knowledge, skills, awareness, and attitudes. Working with dedicated colleagues in GSELER who demonstrated a strong sense of collegiality, I was honored to learn from our GSELER students, who share their unique experiences from diverse teaching contexts. Additionally, I appreciated the opportunity to mentor 16 theses in English.

I am deeply grateful for my time at KCUFS, thanks to my colleagues, university staff, and students. As we move into an era of globalization and advancing technology, language acquisition is evolving significantly, leading to innovative transdisciplinary approaches. I wish you all the best as you embrace new challenges with courage and curiosity, fostering diversity, creativity, inclusivity, and community engagement. May KCUFS continue to empower

students to recognize their potential and embrace their unique strengths on their journeys as global citizens.