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Community College Coming to Qatar

April 20, 2010

SEATTLE – Houston Community College will develop the first American-style community college in Qatar, officials announced here Monday at this week's meeting of the American Association of Community Colleges.

From among eight American two-year institutions vying for the opportunity, the Qatar government's [Supreme Education Council](#) selected Houston Community College to create a "custom curriculum" and found a "fully operational" community college in Doha by this fall. Houston Community College and Qatar officials refused to disclose the financial value of the five-year contract or to provide a copy of it to *Inside Higher Ed*; however, *The Houston Chronicle* [reports that the contract is worth \\$45 million](#). Officials from Houston and Qatar contend that it constitutes "the largest international service partnership with an American community college to date."

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The contract will generously benefit Houston Community College. **Mary Spangler, chancellor of the college, said her institution will retain about 10 percent of the contract's worth – or \$4.5 million – after spending to develop the institution in Qatar.** She said that the college would find globally conscious ways to make use of this new source of revenue.

"What we really want to do is provide some opportunities that we can't otherwise provide because taxpayers would say, 'Wait a minute. What are you spending money that way for?'" Spangler said. "What might that be? We would like to provide opportunities for our students to study abroad because we believe it's important that our students get the experience of going to other countries to see what it's like in other parts of the world. We have in the contract the opportunity for them to study in Qatar as a part of our work there."



Monday's announcement is yet another example of the internationalization of

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