

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2602

INTERNET:
<http://baucus.senate.gov>

September 7, 2011

Ambassador Mauro Vieira
Brazilian Embassy
3006 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Vieira,

As I write this letter to you, I am reminded of my wonderful trip to Brazil this year, and the many opportunities during that trip to deepen ties between Montanans and your nation.

I am writing you today in that spirit, to urge that Brazilian students be given the option to study in the state of Montana, including at the University of Montana, under the Brazilian Government's most impressive "Science without Borders" program.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate your Government for its impressive commitment to post-secondary education in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) disciplines. What Brazil has chosen to do is truly exceptional.

Montana has a long and proud history of commitment to post-secondary education, especially in the STEM disciplines. This commitment is found throughout the institutions that compose The University of Montana system, including The University of Montana – Missoula, Montana Tech of The University of Montana, and The University of Montana College of Technology.

As your Government works to finalize the administrative rules and regulations that will govern this program, I encourage you to consider an approach that allows Brazilian students to choose institutions with leading STEM programs, on a discipline-by-discipline basis. Many of the STEM programs at The University of Montana are national leaders:

- The Skaggs School of Pharmacy is ranked 12th among U.S. schools or colleges of pharmacy as measured by grants from the prestigious National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- Montana Tech (which has an exceptionally strong focus on engineering) was named by U.S. News & World Report as the 3rd Top Public Baccalaureate College in the West in the 2009 edition of "America's Best Colleges".
- The College of Forestry and Conservation and its related departments are consistently ranked as national leaders. The College (originally School of Forestry) was founded in 1913, one of the first programs accredited by the Society of American Foresters.

In addition to having some of the leading programs in their field, The University of Montana boasts a location in beautiful Western Montana, which is in effect a huge natural laboratory of relevance to a country with vast natural resources such as Brazil. The University of Montana also has a renowned English Language Institute that can provide technical/specialized English language courses in the students' STEM fields of study.

The University of Montana has a strong history of working with Brazil and is crafting enhanced partnerships with institutions there. I would be glad to discuss with you personally the many ways in which Brazilian students would benefit from attending The University of Montana under the Science without Borders program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Max Baucus", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Max Baucus
United States Senator