US Ambassador in Austria meets FPS Europe Team in Kuchl/Salzburg

US Ambassador, Alexa Wesner, visited the Salzburg University of Applied Sciences (SUAS) on November 6, 2014 in order to meet the winners of the Solar Decathlon 2013 competition in California at Campus Kuchl. Her excellence revealed that “Austria become in the United States a competent pioneer country for intelligent building”, and had an interesting discussion with students and teaching staff about their experiences in eco-house competition with the World Champion House "LISI", pointing out the importance of academic exchanges between the US and Austria.

The SUAS already have excellent contacts for higher education and research with US (seven partnerships with universities), but will also continuously emphasize them, explained SUAS-Rector, Prof.Kerstin Fink, adding that “As one of the first colleges in Austria the SUAS was selected by an American professor on a Fulbright scholarship. A semester long taught and researched Prof.Timothy Young of the University of Tennessee on Campus Kuchl”.

During the internship in Kuchl, Prof.Young was also the president of the Forest Products Society and supported the establishing the FPS Europe Section. The President and Vicepresident of the FPSE welcomed also the US Ambassador and offered her a collection with different samples of wood species.

The Austro-American exchanges in higher education are providing also the "Marshall Plan Scholarships". They allow each year the SUAS students a study term or research internship at an US universities. According to International Office of SUAS, 46 students already received a grant since this program started.

Photo: US Ambassador, Alexa Wesner, with SUAS-Rector, Prof. Kerstin Fink and FPSE-President Prof. Alexander Petutschigg and FPSE-Vicepresident Prof. Marius C. Barbu