

Kobe College Corporation

Also known as Kobe College Corporation - Japan Education Exchange

Historical Timeline, 1920–2010



1920

November 22, 1920 The Kobe College Corporation is incorporated in Illinois in order to raise and hold funds for Kobe College. Charlotte B. DeForest, the president of Kobe College, not only saw the need for a new campus, that is now on Okadayama, but also realized that an independent, incorporated entity would be important to fund raising. This spurred the development by members and friends of the Women's Board of Missions for the Interior of a secular, corporate entity with eight directors and an active membership limited to 25.

1933

1930 KCC has raised \$700,000 in the United States and is also incorporated in Japan. The Association of Friends of Kobe is organized by KCC and quickly has 130 members.



1937

1933 The new campus is dedicated and due to a favorable exchange rate, more than \$100,000 is left and invested by KCC. It is used to contribute to the annual operating budget of KC.

1941

1937-1941 Exchange Fellowships sent eight American women as special students to Kobe College and brought six students from Kobe College to various institutions in America.

1948

1941 The governments of the US and Japan freeze each other's funds and financial remittances are stopped. Use of KCC funds was legally limited, but the Friends of Kobe funds, intended for exchange scholarships, and were provided to Nisei women who were working on their education.



1954

1948 KCC, through the Friends of Kobe Fund, sent two short term missionary teachers of oral English to KCHS. The number of teachers was expanded to three in the early seventies and to four in 1984. Monies sent as support for the operating budget gradually became support for special projects such as contributions towards new buildings and equipment.

1960

1954 David and Margaret Larson are sent to Kobe College by the American Board where they teach in the English and Music departments for the next ten years. David becomes president of KCC in 1970, succeeding Bryant Drake who had been president since 1954

1970

1960 KCC sent Patsy Cooper to teach English in the High School as a short term missionary of the American Board. Patsy Cooper Gottschalk became president of KCC in 1990.



1976

1973 The first of many subsequent consultations between Kobe College and KCC occurred as fifteen KCC board members visited the campus.

1976 The first home stay program brings KC High School students for a three week visit. In the first years Chicago was the base but later it became the Twin Cities in Minnesota. In 1984 American students began to go to Japan.



1982

1982 A campaign is begun to fund a guest professor in the College every other year as a memorial to long time KCC president, Bryant Drake. In 1984 Lester Pross of Berea College became the first appointee.

1987

1987 Long term planning processes for KCC are initiated under President Peter Bower.

1989 The first of the high school exchange students sent to Kobe College High School for one year at KCHS is Sara Niemiec from Minnesota.

1989

1990 Strategic planning continues under Patsy Gottschalk.
1993 The first of eight Kobe College graduates sponsored by KCC is sent for a two year appointment as a teacher of Japanese Language and Culture teacher to Minnesota School District 197.

1990

1995 A one day symposium bringing together Japanese and American leaders is initiated and begins a series of eight forums co-sponsored by business and organizations in Minnesota.

1993

1995 The first winner of the high school essay contest is Mika Mrozik who goes on after completing her BA to serve as an English teacher at KC High School.

1995

1997 Consultations are held between KCC and KC when a large delegation of board members journeys to Japan for the dedication of the new buildings constructed in the aftermath of the Great Kansai Earthquake of 1995. These include the Julia Dudley Memorial Hall and the Angie Crew Memorial Hall.

1997

1998 The first two Graduate Fellows from American universities are funded for their research in Japan.

1998

2000 In September KCC organized visits to American women's colleges for a six member delegation from KC.

2000 In October a delegation attends the celebration of the 125th anniversary of Kobe College and participates in consultations. The KCC Room is dedicated in the Social Center.

2000

2000 The first International Interns from Kobe College arrive in the US and Canada.

2003

2003 A major delegation of board members holds consultations on programs at KC and also participates in the celebration of 70 years of the Okadayama campus and its architecture.

2004

2003 The extension of "Japan Education Exchange" is added to the legal name of Kobe College Corporation. It simplifies the explanation of group's mission while also expediting the discovery of its programs on the worldwide web.

2006

2004 The high school teachers become contract teachers rather than missionaries sent by the United Church Board.

2008

2006 Kobe College Corporation receives the prestigious "Walter F. Mondale Award" in recognition of our Japanese/American partnership and our contribution to cultural understanding.

2009

2008 KC Music Department graduates perform a series of concerts, "A Midsummer Dream of Japan," organized by KCC and the Consulate General of Japan at Chicago in Minnesota and Illinois.

2010