

The Center for Capacity Building in Study Abroad is a Joint Project of A.P.L.U. and NAFSA with additional support from AACC, AACSCU, ACE, AAU, and NAICU.

CCB Newsletter

November 9, 2009

This report summarizes the activities of the Center from January 1, 2009 to October 31, 2009. In the Center's last report, we provided a schematic of plans the Center adopted for work during 2009/2010. Below we list the items as outlined at that time, bring you up to date on progress in completing work, and discuss plans for the coming months.

Agenda Update

The Center's agenda was developed via presentations and participation at major conferences, and through discussions with representatives of the major educational organizations, colleagues in study abroad, including national and international educational organizations, prominent private study abroad providers, and college and university officials responsible for study abroad.

The Center's agenda is comprised of five major areas of focus:

- *Conceive and articulate a mission/goal for study abroad*
- *Engage the faculty as advocates for study abroad*
- *Meet the challenges of financing study abroad*
- *Build an effective organization to support study abroad*
- *Identify capacity for expansion of study abroad programs, especially in nontraditional locations.*

Year One Activities

During its first year of operation, the Center aimed to:

- Conduct a landscape scan of existing information sources and basic data,
- build foundational relationships with institutions, providers, and supporters,
- launch a high quality, informative, easily navigated Web site that categorizes "what we know" in study abroad and "what's current and developing" in the field—focused in particular on the needs of curricular and financial "decision-makers" on campuses, and
- conduct symposia on institutional financial strategies for expansion of study abroad.

Scan of the Field

During this first year, we attended and presented sessions and papers at:

- The University of Texas-Austin Conference on Study Abroad Financing; The Forum on Study Abroad annual meeting, AACC, AIEA, A•P•L•U annual meeting and summer commission meeting, CIEE, Coimbra Conference, and the NAFSA Annual Conference. The topics on which these papers focused included: study abroad financing, viewing U.S. higher education curricula and credit transfer in light of the Bologna process, integrating study abroad experiences into the community college curriculum, and campus

management of study abroad in coordination with institutional research and enrollment planning processes.

We also conducted campus visits at the University of Minnesota and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

CCB Visibility

The Center Director, with the advice and collaboration of A·P·L·U and NAFSA, visited and interviewed representatives of the five Washington presidential associations, discussing their views and recommendations regarding the “state of the field” for study abroad, The Center agenda and activities, and Center collaboration with international education leaders and institutions.

The CCB Knowledge Base: www.studyabroadcenter.org

With the agenda established, we have concentrated effort in the past few months on building resources and establishing a knowledge base. It captures key information an institution can use to build and expand study abroad, spotlighting examples of best practice. Resources will increase substantially in this coming year.

- The Center has established a series of resources that address each of the key focus areas – 4-5 good resources in each category.
- Papers are being developed in each of the five resource areas that will provide new data in the field, survey most recent thinking in each and recommend methodology for study abroad program expansion. Examples follow:
 1. **Articulating Mission/Goal of Study Abroad:** E-Publication capturing common elements and differences in institutional strategy for growth and development of study abroad within institutional context.
 2. **Faculty Engagement in Study Abroad:** Papers dedicated to international study as a curricular element of individual disciplines, academic areas, and recent developments in international study, subject by subject. Areas scheduled for treatment include: liberal arts, education, business, engineering, medicine/health, teacher education, agriculture, and science.
 3. **Financing Study Abroad:** E-Publication summarizing outcomes and recommendations from the May 3-4 Symposium, supplemented by cost comparison data on study abroad models and analysis of approaches to revenue, price, and cost that promote cost efficiency.
 4. **Effective Organization to Support Study Abroad:** Papers addressing critical on-campus organizational links for expansion of study abroad, including coordination of admissions planning, financial aid, and institutional research in support of study abroad expansion. Three of these papers have been completed and the fourth will be completed by year end. A second set of topics in this area will include a paper devoted to successful staffing patterns for study abroad offices; a third will address the issue of cost-benefit of rational organization vs. retention of campus legacy structures in promoting study abroad growth.
 5. **Identifying Capacity for Expansion of Study Abroad:** This topic is in development, but will likely focus on options for breaking into new geographic and

cultural regions for study abroad, and will address issues connected with differing pedagogical approaches—classroom work, internships, service learning, etc.

- Through news items to be issued at 3-week intervals to its 250 subscribers, the CCB Network will draw leaders' attention to the increasing importance and evolving character of study abroad and its role in 21st century higher education.
- The Center aims in the coming year to identify expertise in the field available to consult with campuses regarding policy issues related to study abroad expansion. These individuals also will advise and contribute to the Center's materials and knowledge base.
- The CCB Director, in partnership with NAFSA and A·P·L·U leaders authored two papers for publication; one sponsored by IIE and the second a chapter contributing to the TIAA CREF Institute publication: "Creating Successful Study Abroad Experiences." The volume is scheduled for publication in November, 2009.

CCB Symposia

The Center last fall set the goal of convening symposia of invited professionals to share ideas, develop models and "create" new knowledge.

- We conducted one Symposium, two days in length, on the subject of financing of study abroad expansion.
- The Symposium has resulted in a downloadable e-publication, to be displayed on the CCB Web site, and its availability announced to all Center subscribers. The Symposium brought together international education leaders and chief budget officers from 30 different colleges and universities, private and public, large and small, from across the country for focused conversation.
- It will be important for expansion to document the financial advantages and disadvantages of different models—centralization, modified centralization, location of study abroad services (wholly or partially) in academic or other units, provider arrangements, etc. We also plan to enlist papers on this topic from leaders in the field who have experience with a variety of models.

The CCB Planning Tools

The Center will use the Knowledge Base and other resources to develop a series of "planning tools" that guide institutions through the decision-making process. These tools will be built by seasoned practitioners, either through symposia or as commissioned work.

- The first of these tools was produced from discussions conducted at the Symposium on Financing Study Abroad Expansion. It consists of information drawn from the discussions of attendees on the subject of policy and administrative decisions involved in financing cost-effective and efficient study abroad expansion.

I welcome any comments or suggestions you may have.

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