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# Multicultural Education & Internationalization: Merging the Two Minds

# Learning Outcomes



- Learn the difference between Multicultural Education & Internationalization
- Why collaborate & the benefits?
- How to create culturally relevant student programming
- How to integrate multicultural & international education in a learning community



## Definitions

- Internationalization – the process of integrating an international, intercultural, or global dimension into the purpose, functions, or delivery of post secondary education.
- Multicultural Education – content integration, knowledge construction, and equity pedagogy that considers an array of cultures & determines how implicit cultural assumptions influence the individual

# Multicultural Education v. Internationalization



## Common Ground

- **Students to:**
  - Succeed in college, graduate, & find gainful employment
  - Seek experiential learning projects
  - Develop empathy for other people's perspective & critical thinking skills
- Foster an inclusive environment on campus & address difficult issues regarding race & ethnicity
- Link theory & practice through our own experience as both citizens & in professions

# Multicultural Education v. Internationalization



**“... THE STRUCTURES IN PLACE AT MANY INSTITUTIONS – WHICH REFLECT THE DIVERGENT HISTORIES OF MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION AND INTERNATIONALIZATION, AS WELL AS INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE – HINDER THE ADVANCEMENT OF BOTH AREAS, AS WELL AS COLLABORATION BETWEEN THEM.”**

# Multicultural Education v. Internationalization



- Internationalists tend to treat cultures as monolithic & typically focus on study abroad & international students
- Multicultural courses tend to look only at issues of race, gender, & so forth, as they are manifested within the U. S.
- Silos of knowledge
- Compete for same administrative support & financial & logistical resources



- Oversee campus wide efforts to create a community that is committed to inclusion & pluralism as well as a culture of international engagement

- Foster a campus environment that promotes integrity, responsible citizenship, & respect for diversity



## Our Purpose

# Office of International Education




- Work to elevate the University's current international initiatives & programs & develop new ones
- Enhance IPFW's global recognition & strengthen the activities & policies on international research
- OIE serves as a resource to IPFW
  - Diversify student recruitment
  - Internationalize teaching curriculum & course offerings
  - Campus globalization cultural programs such as International Education Week



# Office of International Education



- Promote international understanding through:
  - Study Abroad
  - Exchange of international students, scholars, & faculty
  - Research opportunities



Students will acknowledge and understand the varied ways that group and individual inequalities and interactions impact themselves and society as a whole.



**ODMA Learning Goal**

# Office of Diversity & Multicultural Affairs



- Supports the academic success of students of color
- Works to build an inclusive community
- Host retention programs & collaborate with other on campus departments to expose students to services
- Encourage cross cultural dialogue
- Advocates for all African American, Asian American, Latino, Native American, International Students, 1<sup>st</sup> generation college students, & LGBT

# Student Learning Outcomes



- Develop an understanding of global issues & their local impact
- Workforce development skills that allow movement in diverse environments with a range of people
- Appreciate differences – value & acknowledge other cultures as legitimate
- Develop & use intercultural communication skills

# How do we Collaborate?



- **Cultural programs**
  - International Education Week
  - Lecture series
  - WorldFest
  - Black History month celebrations
  - Women's History month celebrations





# How do we Collaborate



- **Freshman Learning Community**
  - Interview person from a different country
  - Service learning activities
  - Connect students with student support services
- **Diversity Council & International Education Council membership overlap**



## Benefits

- Collaboration gets the whole campus to look at these areas more & garner administrative support (logistical & financial)
- Address difficult social issues within the institutional or broader community context
- Examine the values, attitudes, & responsibilities for local/global citizenship
- Increase retention rate of minority & international students

# Benefits

- Students develop:
  - Intercultural skills
  - Critical thinking
  - An ability to develop a tolerance for other opinions
  - Understand multiple perspectives on an issue
- Prepare students to compete in a multicultural & global workplace





# Moving Forward



- Develop assessment plan for our programs based on our learning outcomes to see if students are accomplishing the learning goals
- Take the learning community course on service learning trip to Texas



# Moving Forward

**“THE MORE WE KNOW ABOUT EACH OTHER, THE MORE WE LEARN ABOUT EACH OTHER, THE MORE WE ENGAGE ON DIFFERENCES THAT WE HAVE BETWEEN OUR SOCIETIES AND BETWEEN OUR SOCIAL SYSTEMS AND BETWEEN OUR POLITICAL POINTS OF VIEW, THE BETTER OFF WE ARE. THE MORE DIALOGUE WE HAVE AT EVERY LEVEL, AND ESPECIALLY AT THE ACADEMIC LEVEL, WHERE OPINION MAKERS ARE LOCATED, THE BETTER OFF WE ARE.”**



Ashley T. Simmons,  
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