

# Programs designed to support integration of international graduate students

**Anita Mastroieni, Ed.D.**  
**Director of the Graduate Student Center**  
**University of Pennsylvania**

Association of International Education Administrators  
2014 Annual Conference

# The Penn student body

- Full-time students: 21,344
- Full-time graduate/professional: 11,025
- International grad/professional: 2,996

# Needs of grad students vs. undergrads

- Housing
- Family support
- Academic support
- Health & Wellness
- Life skills

# Need for better integration and support of international students

Survey of all international students showed:

- > Overall welcoming environment
- > Satisfied with quality of life
- > Not connecting with domestic students
- > Not getting involved in student government or organizations
- > Some difficulty adapting to education system

# Programs and initiatives to address these needs:

- Online Info Sessions for incoming international grad students
- Intercultural Leadership Program
- Leadership Training for grad student groups
- Intercultural Roundtables
- Lang Chats/Family Center English lessons
- CAPS partnerships

# Online Info Sessions for incoming grad students

- ◉ Students can participate from anywhere in the world; offered multiple times to accommodate different time zones
- ◉ Topics:
  - > Housing
  - > Incoming International Student Info Session
  - > Health Insurance
  - > Academic Success (academic integrity)
- ◉ On-campus session on intercultural competency to be added in 2014

# Intercultural Leadership Program

- Application open to first-year undergraduate & graduate students.
- Weekend program focused on intercultural skills development
- Small group participation in a project/organization
- Follow-up support sessions
- Final presentations
- Now looking for ways to keep ILP students connected

# Leadership Training for grad student groups

- ◉ Decision Making
- ◉ Run Effective Meetings
- ◉ Event Planning
- ◉ Team Building & Group Dynamics
- ◉ Presentation skills
- ◉ Intercultural Development Inventory
- ◉ Future session on how to get involved



# Intercultural Programming

- ◎ Intercultural Roundtables:
  - > Intercultural Game Night
  - > Discussion on Sochi Olympics
  - > Intercultural Dating & Relationships
  - > Belief Holding & Spiritual Curiosity
  - > Small Talk across Social Contexts
- ◎ Intercultural buddies program
  - > Groups of 3-4 students from various countries
  - > Orientation, suggested activities and get-togethers

# Language Chats

- Family Center English lessons for spouses/partners
- Grad Center Chats: Arabic, Cantonese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese
- Food-related celebrations

# Helping international students connect with Counseling

- Counseling & Psychological Services works with other campus partners:
  - > Stress management with academic support programs at the Grad Center
  - > Workshops with Learning Resources Center
  - > Intercultural discussions with International Student & Scholar Services