Planning our Future: Mentoring the Next SIOs

Meredith McQuaid, University of Minnesota
Susan Popko, Santa Clara University
Joe Potts, University of Kansas
Cross-cultural understanding not just for students anymore

Senior International Officers often:

- start out as specialists in a particular aspect of international education;
- become generalists in the field of international higher education;
- hire specialists in particular aspects of international higher education;
- are responsible for ensuring staff are able to appreciate and promote cross-cultural understanding generally in college students;
- allow specialization to defeat professional cross-cultural understanding
Environments vary (of course)

Size of institution and international programs staff
Background of SIO
Depth and breadth of international priorities and their inclusion (or exclusion) in campus priorities
Employee engagement and resources available
Institutional history (real and apocryphal)
Attitudes of SIO and other university leaders
And yet.....
Which lane will you choose?

- Good leaders plan for succession.
- “What if they leave” vs. “What if they stay?”
- It is in our own best interests, and in the best interest of the field to encourage understanding and appreciation for our own cross-cultural opportunities.