International Higher Education Leaders as Advocates and Agents for Change for Social Justice

Yu Jiang, Xavier University of Louisiana
JY Zhou, Stockton University
Benedikt Brisch, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), New York Office
Yu Jiang, Xavier University of Louisiana

❖ Social justice in international higher education a timely issue
What is social justice?
➢ No matter one’s position, background, etc., equitable and fair access to resources (financial, education, political, health care...)

Why should we International Education professionals care about social justice?
➢ Moral obligation
➢ Philosophical
➢ Practical consideration
  ■ Direct economic contributions
  ■ Social development
JY Zhou, Stockton University
- Stockton’s 2025 Strategic Plan
- Anti-oppression and anti-racism curricula and pedagogy

Ben Brisch, DAAD
- Diversity and Equal Opportunity as goals of DAAD’s 2025 Strategic plan
- DAAD Programs for Refugees since 2015
- New Virtual Exchange schemes making study abroad more accessible

Yu Jiang, Xavier University of Louisiana
- Xavier University, founded to serve historically underserved population
- Measures that we have taken
- Future plans/measures
Stockton University
2025 Strategic Plan

Six Key Areas of Focus

The Strategic Plan addresses six key areas of focus, each of which builds on the institutional commitments articulated in the University’s Mission, Vision, and Values statements.

- **Inclusive Student Success**
  Commitment to providing an affordable high-quality, interdisciplinary education that is grounded in the liberal arts and prepares students for healthy, productive, and meaningful lives.

- **Diversity & Inclusion**
  Create and preserve an environment free from prejudice and discrimination, and take actions that affirm our commitment to inclusivity and diversity.

- **Teaching & Learning**
  Encourage and support faculty research and pedagogical innovations to ensure that we effectively reach a diverse group of learners and that our degrees remain current and competitive.

- **Strategic Enrollment Management**
  Support students who arrive in their first year, those who transfer later in their academic career, as well as those who return to school as adult learners.

- **Financial Sustainability**
  Balance the fiscal needs of academic programs, capital and facilities, technology infrastructure, human capital, debt and expenses, student programs and services, and operations while keeping tuition affordable.

- **Campus Community, Communication & Shared Governance**
  Work closely with all campus constituencies to ensure that organizational structures and communication strategies continue to provide opportunities for productive discussion and collaboration.

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Our International Education:
International educators should present the complete picture, i.e. reality.

*Project Examples:*

- Virtual Exchange
- Curriculum Mapping Summer Institute
Our Students

“... two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.”

— W.E.B. DuBois
in The Souls of Black Folk
International educators should reveal, promote, and appreciate the diversity.

Project Examples:

- Stockton World Language Tables
- Cultures and Languages Across the Curriculum (CLAC) Consortium: https://clacconsortium.org/
- High Impact Practices - Office of Academic Achievement
International educators should argue for a Pedagogy of Global Learning.

We should "put the power in power".

Pedagogy of Global Learning aims to empower students to explore the world with updated understanding (new knowledge), curious and positive attitudes, and responsible and applicable skills.
Pedagogy of Global Learning

- Global learning is praxis.
- Action and reflection are one piece of global learning.
- Global learning aims to achieve authenticity.

**Project Example:**
- Globalizing the Curriculum Summer Institute

“Now that we’ve celebrated our diversity, embraced a new spirit of creativity, made a fresh commitment to excellence, and given something back to the community, does anyone here remember what it is we’re supposed to manufacture and sell?”
International educators should understand and develop multiple representations of internationalization.

The German Academic Exchange Service – DAAD is……

… a self-governing organisation of German universities

■ 242 member universities
■ 104 student bodies

The map shows 263 university locations in Germany
Origins and destinations of DAAD scholarship holders in 2019*:
Incoming recipients to Germany (I) and outgoing German recipients (O)

Funding recipients from abroad 60,581  (incoming)
Funding recipients from Germany 85,078  (outgoing)
total 145.659
DAAD worldwide: Regional Offices, Information Centres, Information Points, DWIH, Lectureships

- 18 Regional Offices
- 5 German Centres for Research and Innovation (DWIH)
- 40 Information Centres (IC)
- 11 Information Points (IP)
- DAAD headquarters in Bonn and Berlin Offices
- 426 Lectureships

Map showing the distribution of DAAD offices worldwide.
DAAD Strategy 2025 – relevant key issues

1. Digital transformation
2. Sustainability and the 2030 Agenda
3. Diversity and equal opportunity
4. International professionals for science and industry
5. Innovation and transfer
6. Global issues
7. Foreign academic policy in times of growing instability
8. Freedom of science
Strategic Goal Nr. 3: Diversity and equal opportunity

The DAAD is striving to encourage traditionally lesser represented social groups to participate in its programmes, and thereby generate new impulses and strengthen academic creativity.

daad.de/strategy
DAAD—Support for Refugees in Germany

DAAD—Programmes for Refugees since 2015:

- **Welcome** – Students Helping Refugees
- **Integra** – Integrating Refugees in Higher Education
- "PROFI" Programme – Promoting Professional Integration of Academics with a Refugee Background in the German Labour Market
- **Leadership for Syria**

[daad.de/refugees](http://daad.de/refugees)
New DAAD Program 2020: IVAC – International Virtual Academic Collaboration

1. German Universities and their international Partners offer virtual Co-Teaching or linked Classrooms
2. Interactive learning
3. Teams work in an intercultural context
4. New mobility patterns? VE and physical exchange
5. Makes study abroad experience more accessible and affordable

daad.de/ivac
Xavier University of Louisiana

- Historically Black
- Founded by St. Katharine Drexel
Xavier University of Louisiana

❖ Xavier University was established, primarily to educate the historically disenfranchised population, namely, African-Americans.

❖ Currently, African-Americans are over 70% of the student body, followed by Asians, of about 7%, and the third group is Caucasian students.
Yu Jiang, Xavier University of Louisiana

- Intentional restructuring for increased equitable opportunities
  - Financial difficulty
    - Education Abroad
    - International Student Liaison, a paid position
  - Information access
Diversity, inclusion and multicultural competency

- Employment opportunity in International Office
- Presentation/hosting cross-cultural events
- Planned future activity: international scholars and student exhibition

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**Cultural Night**

Cross-cultural Competency, Inclusive Excellence

November 22, 2019
University Center Ballroom
Xavier University of Louisiana
6-8:30pm

MCs: Ms. Marcella Hincapie & Ms. Peggy Hill

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<th>Band performance</th>
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<td>Opening prayer</td>
<td>Father Eldo</td>
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<td>Remarks</td>
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<td>• Dr. C. Reynold Verret, President</td>
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<td>• Dr. Kathleen Kennedy, Dean, College of Pharmacy</td>
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<td>• Dr. Camellia Okegbo, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences</td>
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<td>• Dr. Yu Jiang, Interim Director, Center for Intercultural and International Programs &amp; Director, Confucius Institute</td>
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Asian Lion Dance

Interactive Activities/Multicultural Presentations at Tables

Performances 7:30pm
- Palestinian Song and Dance
- Partner Dance, by Yani Zhang & Heng Yang
- Five Rhythms Dance, by Yan Zhuang
- African Dance, by African Student Union
- Taichi Sword Dance, by Tanyan Yang
- Kung Fu Show, by Shaolin Institute
- International Fashion Show

Diversity and Inclusivity Award

Special thanks to Asst. Dean Randall Scheinnyder, Dr. Margarita Echeverri, and Class of 2023 of the College of Pharmacy; Dr. Jose Bautista and Prof. Gili Farudi of the College of Arts and Sciences; faculty and student members of the COP Diversity Committee; Ms. Karen Lee of the Center for Intercultural and International Programs; and dedicated Confucius Institute faculty and staff.
Future efforts

➢ Close collaboration with Admissions and Financial Aid offices, to give weighted consideration for students from underdeveloped countries and regions

➢ With Institutional Advancement for fundraising to increase financial support
Xavier University campus

University mission: The ultimate purpose of the University is to contribute to the promotion of a more just and humane society by preparing its students to assume roles of leadership and service in a global society.
Discussion Questions:

1. What intersections bring you to the topic of social justice in international education?
2. What measures does your institution have taken or what statements has your institution made in the recent Black Lives Matter movement?
3. What role do you envision colleges to play in this discourse?
4. What challenges have you faced in the past or currently?
5. What will be the necessary next steps to successfully sustain the efforts of enhancing social justice education?
Contact Us

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