Mapping Strategies To Reach Your Vision For International Education

AIEA THEMATIC FORUM
February 2-4, 2017
Texas Christian University

Facilitators:

Dr. Tracy Williams, Associate Director of Center for International Studies
Texas Christian University
Dr. Jane Kucko, Vice-Provost for Global Education
University of Tulsa
The Agenda

Keynote Address

Getting Better at Doing Good in the World
Jennifer Klein Burrows formerly of World Bank Group

Session 1: From Mission to Implementation:
Designing a Cohesive Framework for Internationalization
Dr. Jane Kucko, Vice Provost for Global Education, University of Tulsa

Session 2: Mapping Strategies to Achieve Goals and Outcomes.
The Koehler Center for Teaching Excellence
Texas Christian University

Session 3: The Prism Project: Embedding Intentionality & Your Framework Into Study Abroad Through Intercultural Learning
Dr. Tracy Williams, Associate Director for Center for International Studies: TCU Abroad

February 3rd 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Session 4: Creating Your Map.
Participants will submit 2 to 3 issues and/or roadblocks they find challenging prior to the Forum. This workshop is participatory in that participants will discuss challenges, explore ideas and solutions, and conceptualize their map that connects strategies and current world issues to their goals and vision. Facilitators will be present.

Session 5: Securing Resources for Implementation for Your Vision
TCU’s Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs, Brian Gutierrez
Vice-Chancellor for Development, Don Whelan
### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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<th>Title/Position</th>
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<td>Laura Semenow</td>
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<td>The University of Tulsa</td>
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Keynote Address
Jennifer Klein Burrows
Educational Consultant for World Bank Group
Getting Better at Doing Good in the World

What is the impact of our work as international educators? How do the choices we make impact our own students and the people they touch? Are we building the future we want? In this provocative keynote, Ms. Burrows will discuss the actions and policies that unintentionally do harm in the world, and the ways we can get better at doing good – whether that is the structure of service learning in developing countries, the innovations in educational institutions, or the assessment and certification processes.

Session 2
TCU’s Koehler Center for Teaching Excellence
As an academic, you’ve probably spent time mapping student assignments to learning outcomes. It is equally important to map strategies, initiatives and programs to university goals. In this session, learning outcome experts will lead participants through the cycle of developing university goals, designing strategies and initiatives, and measuring outcomes.

Session 3
Dr. Tracy Williams, Associate Director for International Studies, TCU
The Prism Project: Embedding Intentionality and Your Framework into Study Abroad through Intercultural Learning

International Education has lofty goals for students to learn important things about the world, but research shows there is a large disconnect between what students could learn and what they actually learn. Whether they are going abroad or learning about the world in their own homes, they are often tripped up by the very thing we hope to help them overcome – their own cultural biases. Intentionality and conscious focus on cultural lenses is essential for students to gain the broader views and new cultural perspectives we want for them. This session will discuss Dr. Williams’ approach to imbedding intercultural learning in international education initiatives.

Session 4
Creating Your Map. Participants will be asked to submit along with their registration 2 to 3 issues and/or roadblocks that they find challenging allowing the forum hosts to set up an agenda and round-tables by topic prior to the beginning of Workshop 4. This workshop will be focused upon discussions amongst participants on how others are addressing the challenges including ideas, suggestions, initiatives that they have implemented. This is a work session that provides meaningful time for SIOs to sketch out a concrete map that connects strategies and current world issues to their goals and vision. Facilitators from the previous workshops will be available to answer questions, however, this is a work session for the participants. Internet will be provided.

Session 4
Brian Gutierrez
Vice-Chancellor of Finance, TCU
Don Whelan
Vice-Chancellor of Development, TCU
Securing Resources for Implementation of Your Vision.

TCU’s Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs, Brian Gutiérrez will present tactics for talking with your campus Financial Officer in order to obtain resources to implement your vision. What homework needs to be done before talking with your financial officer? What kinds of questions should be asked? How do financial officers think? How can you effectively communicate your vision to achieve the goal of securing funding? TCU’s Vice Chancellor for Development, Mr. Don Whelan, will take a similar approach from the first presentation by presenting talking points and best approaches from the lens of a development officer. Questions and Answers from the participants. Participants are encouraged to give specific examples of types of projects/visions that they have developed during the previous day’s workshops.
The Forum opened up with a keynote address from Jennifer Klein Burrows, Educational Consultant for World Food Bank who challenged us to consider some of the actions and policies that unintentionally do harm in the world (see photo below, left). Her keynote, “Getting Better at Doing Good in the World” challenged SIO’s to look at activities such as volunteer work and explained through a different and challenging lens how often times good intentions create more harm than “good” while in-country.

The keynote’s message served as a valuable reminder as to the purpose of internationalization—including the challenges we must consider. One of Ms. Burrow’s most poignant points was to be sure we understand the consequences of study abroad. For example, while students may desire to volunteer in an orphanage or work to eradicate human trafficking, their volunteer work may actually be supporting the efforts for which they believe they are fighting. The audience discussion following the keynote address was extensive and could have served as an entire additional workshop on how we can do “better at doing good for the world.”

THE WORKSHOPS

The workshop topics from comprehensive internationalization to mapping student outcomes and assessment were well received and the dialogue were purposeful. All of the presenters’ Power Points and handouts were provided to the participants via “Dropbox” and additional documents such as examples of comprehensive plans were shared.

The workshops on mapping learning outcomes to an institutions plan for internationalization was in-depth and provided specific steps to include resulting in robust outcomes. The workshop included hands-on practical application followed by a presentation by Dr. Tracy Williams which presented her work called “the Prism Project” where participants learned how to integrate intercultural learning into their framework for study abroad. The final presentation for the day centered around campus-wide assessment through Dr. Chris Hightower’s presentation on how TCU is measuring students intercultural learning through the IES assessment tool.

The second day of the forum began with a 2 hour informal conversation on campus internationalization. Beginning with informal comments by Dr. Jane Kucko, the audience shared their campus’ approach to comprehensive internationalization in terms of strategies that worked, were not effective and the state of their current work. The conversation was robust and the hosts of this particular forum recommends future forums integrate at least one session for just informal discussion and questions and answers.

The forum concluded with a presentation by TCU’s Chief Development Officer, Don Whelan and Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs, Brian Gutierrez. Beginning with an introduction on how to effectively communicate with one’s development and financial officers, the audience followed with numerous questions and found the session most helpful. Of particular note is the importance of explaining “impact” in presenting your plans. Mr. Gutierrez also expressed the importance of pilot studies to indicate the worth of the project and sustaining funding.
Thematic Forum Outcomes

The overarching goal of *Mapping Strategies to Reach Your Vision for International Education* was to provide a mechanism for senior international officers to learn and share different approaches for internationalizing one’s campus. The forum began with a thought-provoking keynote by Jennifer Klein Burrows, formerly of World Bank Group where attendees were reminded of the complexity of study abroad and internationalization. From the very start, an immediate learning outcome was to be reminded that while we all have the best intentions in advocating study abroad, there are consequences to our interaction with other cultures that must be considered. One poignant example by Ms. Klein were documented cases where students were volunteering for orphans with the intent of “helping” when in fact their work was quietly supporting critical issues such as human trafficking where the orphanage was a “cover” for the actual purpose of the organization. SIOs responded very positively to the message and intensive discussion ensued where we focused on the need to be thoughtful and well-prepared and informed in planning programs.

Frameworks for different approaches to internationalization were shared to spur conversation, for example TCU’s Global Realities and TU’s world perspectives and high impact study abroad. SIO’s shared their approaches as well including what worked and what did not. As a result, we all learned that there are many different approaches to internationalization and perhaps the most important consideration is to fully understand the culture, population, and learning outcomes desired by one’s own institution.

The sessions on learning outcomes and intercultural learning were well received and helpful. Various strategies and techniques to hone in on developing meaningful outcomes as well as embedding them into a program were presented. Of particular note was Dr. Tracy William’s work “the Prism Project” on how to teach intercultural learning simultaneously with learning outcomes associated with a particular program or course. TCU’s campus-wide assessment project through the IES assessment tool by Dr. Chris Hightower was also noteworthy. The discussion that followed addressed the challenges of assessment in terms of consistency, sustained practice of assessment, and cost. While many were impressed by TCU’s campus-wide assessment project, many of the SIOs noted the challenge of the costs of doing so at their own institution which lead to discussion on more feasible practices for institutions with limited resources.

The session on mapping one’s specific learning outcomes and plan for internationalization morphed into an almost two hour informal question and answer session centered around comprehensive internationalization. The conversation was built around trust in that honest and frank experiences that worked and didn’t work were shared with the understanding the conversation was more for just those SIOs in attendance. Everyone was willing to share and several people commented on how they appreciated the frankness of the conversation. SIOs shared their different approaches to campus internationalization including those institutions who were in the process of planning initiatives such as the QEP or QIP for accreditation purposes.

The final session was a workshop on best ways to communicate with an institution’s senior financial and development officers. Both individuals opened up the discussion with examples of best approaches to be successful. For example, the Chief Development officer, Don Whelan stated that the most important considerations for a development officer is impact upon the institution and students, and the strong relationship to the current strategic initiatives. Brian Gutierrez, Vice-Chancellor of Finance at TCU stated that one of the most effective ways to obtain financial and related resources is to present a pilot-program that indicates 1) purpose, 2) impact, and 3) need related to the goal’s of the institution. The SIOs in attendance asked many questions and reported learning new methods of asking and obtaining resources in order to implement their internationalization plans.

**Insights for Senior International Officers**

1. Among the SIOs in attendance, there is a sense of “common good” centered around CI and that there appears to be a willingness to share plans and strategies as a means of collectively achieving this goal in higher education.  
2. In the spirit of sharing, the presentations and handouts where shared with the SIOs through Dropbox and it remains as a resource for them to utilize.  
3. With the variety of approaches to CI, the most critical step is to dive deep into fully understanding your institutional culture, faculty/staff, and students, the mission, strategic plan and institutional priority for CI in order to be successful.  
4. Utilizing models such as Oxfam and UNESCO’s global citizenship curriculum and/or the UN’s Strategic Plan for a Sustainable World by 2030 are all excellent resources to create a framework for comprehensive internationalization.  
5. SIOs are willing to share stories which are invaluable resources for implementing your own plan for CI.  
6. Developing meaningful learning outcomes that are measurable is a critical step for implementation and sustainability.