U.S. colleges and universities are challenged to work with a growing population of international students entering through domestic admissions. Displaced students, such as immigrants, undocumented students, refugees, and children of migrant-workers among others, bring a wealth of resources that contribute to campus internationalization. However, this population is often marginalized from internationalization processes and overlooked at the moment of designing specific student services. To advance comprehensive internationalization, U.S. campuses and particularly Senior International Officers (SIOs) are pressed to champion internationalization models that are inclusive, regardless of the student visa category. In the midst of multiple efforts and many champions who make an impact on the lives of college students, building collaboration across the campus is key to ensure displaced students join the logic of campus internationalization.

This Thematic Forum addresses the following questions:

- How do SIOs champion an internationalization process that is both comprehensive and inclusive?
- What are the unique needs facing displaced international students?
- In what ways do displaced students contribute to campus internationalization?
- How do we prepare the campus for serving the needs of displaced international students?
- What are successful services and models for supporting displaced students?

Relevance and Strategic Issues for Senior International Officers

The current U.S. political climate has put displaced international students at the forefront of the public discussion. From a harsh political discourse to two attempted executive orders, displaced students have been politicized and associated in the public sphere with Islam, terrorism and illegal immigration. These actions have unmeasurable consequences. They create a hostile environment by fueling negative attitudes against Muslim populations and scrutinizing access to the U.S. for refugees and international students from six countries. In these trying times, SIOs are particularly challenged to remind the campus and the surrounding communities about the goals of campus internationalization and the need for globally informed citizens for economic, political and social stability. More than ever before, SIOs are invited to renew their commitment to serving all international students, regardless how they joined the campus.

Forum Objectives

The Thematic Forum pursues the following objectives:

- To position the discussion of displaced students in the internationalization agenda of U.S. colleges and universities.
- To identify the challenges and opportunities associated with displaced students as related to campus internationalization.
- To share best practices of working with displaced international students and advancing internationalization processes.
- To increase the advocacy role of the SIO for displaced students on U.S. colleges and universities, given the current political climate.
- To improve the campus climate by equipping staff and faculty with skills and tools to engaging in difficult conversations.

Registration

Registration starts January 8, 2018
Subsidized registration: $50 (first 60 participants)
Full registration: $110

Contact

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