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*The Internationalization
Imperative in Turbulent Times*



Planning our Future: Mentoring the Next SIOs



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Cross-cultural understanding not just for students anymore

Senior International Officers often....

- start out as **specialists** in a particular aspect of int'l 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.

