Preparing Your Campus for International Students

with Trena Bolden Fields

Objectives

- Increase awareness of international student concerns
- Learn ways to best support international students
- Develop 1-3 action steps to build a supportive campus environment for international students (internationalize your campus)

Group Discussion

- How does your institution value international students?

Internationalization

- is a process of increasing international students across the globe based on global change and the growth of global competitiveness (Montgomery, 2010).

Students can feel or be...

- Isolated
- Misunderstood
- Confused
- Homesick
- Lost (loss of social status, sense of self, loved ones, sleep)

Students can feel or be...

- Depressed
- Lonely
- Pressured
- Stressed

Suggestions

- Listen to student stories
- Review the literature and empirical research
- Connect with other colleagues, campuses, organizations (NAFSA) already conducting international education work
- Develop an international student group

Suggestions

- Help students connect with culture of host country
- Assist students in developing and learning the skills to maintain international networks
- Integrate/embed international learning into the academic curriculum and research cultures of your college or university
- Clearly define and articulate campus vision

Suggestions

- Increase student validation
- Provide diverse, meaningful, and quality spiritual engagement
- Develop an integrative/intercultural campus environment where international students participate an immersion and/or cultural exchange with American students

International Student Integrative Growth Analogy

- A tree's beginning (seed, then vegetation/roots)
- What does a tree need to grow?

International Student Integrative Growth Analogy

- Students come to universities with previous experiences (family and social background)
- What do students need to be successful?

- "I can't see my life any different. I will not change my experience for anything. Having a crappy first year and then getting involved with the students and the community. For international students picking the right college is the key..." (Student Interview: Bolden Fields, 2010)

Small Group Discussion

- How does this information impact your work?
- What will you take back to your campus?
- Outline 1-3 action items you will do this year (use action verbs).

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