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UNIVERSALIZING GLOBAL LEARNING IN THE 21ST-CENTURY ACADEMY

# Challenges and Opportunities in Advancing Global Learning

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# Goals of Presentation

- Share the components of successful global living-learning programs
- Explain the collaborative effort involved in ensuring success
- Evaluate the challenges that such programs face in implementation
- Discuss how these models might be applied at other institutions

# VCU Globe:

## A global education living-learning community



- Success in any career in a 21<sup>st</sup>-century global environment
- Equips students to become culture brokers and to mediate across difference
- Fosters intercultural learning through sustained engagement
- Provides students with a conceptual grasp of and first-hand experience with the impact of globalization

# VCU Globe: Program components

- 12 hours of courses
- General curriculum and disciplinary coursework
- Experiential learning (education abroad, service-learning, on campus and off)
- Co-curricular programs/professional development
- 40 hours of engagement
- Global education certificate



# VCU Globe: Programmatic areas

## Global Engagement

- Links to international students, faculty/staff, and visitors—on campus and internationally

## Community Outreach

- Links to immigrants and refugee populations in Richmond area and internationally

## Co-Curricular Activities and Career Preparation

- Residence hall programming



# VCU Globe: Collaboration

## Development stage

- Campus-wide task force
- Global Education Office and Division of Student Affairs

## During implementation

- On-Campus
  - Partner with and learn from other campus units
  - Involve faculty from across campus (Faculty Fellows)
  - Capitalize on existing programming
  - Identify areas of need
- Off-Campus
  - Work with Richmond-area partners and professionals



# VCU Globe: Challenges

## Student-related

- Competing commitments and opportunities
- One-on-one engagement
  - Motivation and Personality

## Non-student-related

- Changes in VCU tuition and fees
- Campus awareness of new program
- Development of sustainable assessment methods



# UMD Global Communities



- GC combines academic coursework, relevant programming and experiences, and participation in a residential community to help students:
  - understand globalization and global issues through scholarship and experience
  - develop the ability to work cooperatively with people of diverse backgrounds
  - prepare for life and work in an interconnected world



# The Global Communities Program

- Freshmen invitation two-year program in residence hall
- 10 credit hours= transcript notation
  - 6 credits academic courses first year
  - 1 credit introductory course first semester
  - 3 credits global experience second year
- Co-curricular program on campus, in Maryland, in Washington



# The Need



- Lack of globally oriented curriculum
- Strategic Plan identified need
- RFP for Global Minors and Global Learning Communities as part of larger effort
- College of Behavioral and Social Sciences proposal for a living-learning program

# The Plan

- Restructure existing program
- Collaboration among Provost, Undergraduate Studies, BSOS and Resident Life
- Expanded and changed recruitment—freshmen invitation, 75 per year
- Strengthened/ changed academics—interdisciplinary, rooted in social sciences
- Added “Global Experience” requirement
- Appointed academic director
- Provided more resources



# Implementation Challenges

## 2011-2014

- Develop required academic courses and get them approved for General Education
- Develop global experience alternatives and the courses to go with them
- Develop recruitment process and marketing
- Switch from capstone to preparatory course
- Develop co-curricular programming
- Hire appropriate staff
- Work with College of BSOS and University



# Future Challenges

- Recruitment
  - International students
  - Gender balance
  - Competing programs on campus
- Global experience
  - Funds to send students abroad
  - Developing new service-learning options
- Resources
  - Staffing and retention
  - Flat budget
- Strengthening links to other programs on campus



# Discussion/Q & A

*1.*

What are the costs and benefits of implementing these types of global learning models on your campus?

# Discussion/Q & A

2.

What challenges and opportunities present themselves on your campus in implementing global learning activities?

# Discussion/Q & A

3.

What other global learning models are being considered through your campus' internationalization efforts?



# Contact Information

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