



**2024  
Annual Conference**

Leading  
International  
Education  
at a Crossroads

# Internationalization at Community Colleges:

*Building Understanding for University SIOs*

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# Who We Are

## **Kati Bell**

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## **Voytek Wloch**

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## **Fabiola Riobe**

VP Educational Innovation and Global Programming  
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## **Mariam Raza**

Manager, Global Initiatives and Partnership Development  
Conestoga College



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# Internationalization Support

ACE and CCID Provide Similar Internationalization Frameworks



- Institutional Commitment & Policy
- Leadership & Structure
- Curriculum & Co-curriculum
- Faculty & Staff Support
- Mobility
- Partnerships & Networks



**Community Colleges for  
International Development**

Local Access • Global Opportunities

- Leadership & Policy
- Organization Structure & Personnel
- Teaching & Learning
- Co-curricular
- International Student Support
- Study Abroad
- Professional Development
- Partnerships



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# Internationalization Frameworks

However, at deeper dive, there are some differences:

- **ACE** provides **guidelines** and provides three strategic lenses through which to view them: *DEI*, *Agility & Transformation*, and *Data-Informed Decision-Making*
- **CCID** provides specific **process** and differentiates the extent of internationalization as *Seeking*, *Building*, *Reaching*, and *Innovating*.
- By design, Community Colleges (CCs) are to serve local communities  
Lack of direct mandate at CCs to recruit international students



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# Little-Known Facts about CCs

- **35% of all U.S. undergrad students** study at CCs -- a total of 10.2 million as of Fall 2021 (U.S. Dep't of Education)
- CCs are a **natural “home” for life-long learning**, because, “over half of adults (...) with a Bachelor’s degree attended community colleges in their postsecondary trajectories.” (U.S. Dep’t of Education)
- **Four out of five** students starting their higher education at a community college plan to transfer and eventually get a bachelor's degree or higher (Washington Post, 2023)
- “Four-year institutions will have **better retention rates when they work together** with community colleges to improve the preparation of students to pursue upper-division engineering courses” (National Academy of Engineering and National Research Council, 2005)
- **CCID** is the association devoted to Community College Internationalization



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# Education Abroad at CCs

## Important Ed Abroad Innovations from community colleges:

1. **Increased access:** *Community colleges were the first higher education institutions to allow education abroad [admission to freshmen and sophomore status, concurrent high school students, and adults, including senior citizens](#) (Hess, 1982; Raby, 1986; 1996, 2008).*
2. **Non-traditional Locations:** *In the 1980s and 1990s, community colleges offered [programs in Latin America and the Caribbean](#). One of the reasons these programs were so attractive is the close geographic distance that supported a lower cost program (Brenner, 2016; McKee, 2018, Parker, 2015).*
3. **Program Length Variability:** *While the university focus had traditionally been on longer-term education abroad programs, community colleges offered a range of program lengths including semester, [short-term summer, and shorter-term winter break programs](#) (Hoffa, 2007).*



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# Education Abroad at CCs

## Prevalent Program Models

- Faculty Led Programs (FLP)
- Summer & Shorter term
- Closer geographic locations: Latin America & Caribbean

## Primary Challenge = Perceived Deficits

- Lack of resources, staff, and support
- Disinterest from students
- Barriers to access: financial, academic, socio-cultural



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# International Student Recruitment

Community Colleges as a concept *less understood abroad*

- (??) In international students were enrolled in CCs

Int'l Enrollment at Community Colleges (Open Doors)

- Peak number      2016-17: 96,400
- Most recent      2022-23: 52,600

CCs viewed primarily:

- *Vocational & continuing education*
- *Commuter campus*

CCs are *not part of rankings* and hence there is a lack of value proposition

CCs' *low cost is frequently equated with low quality.*



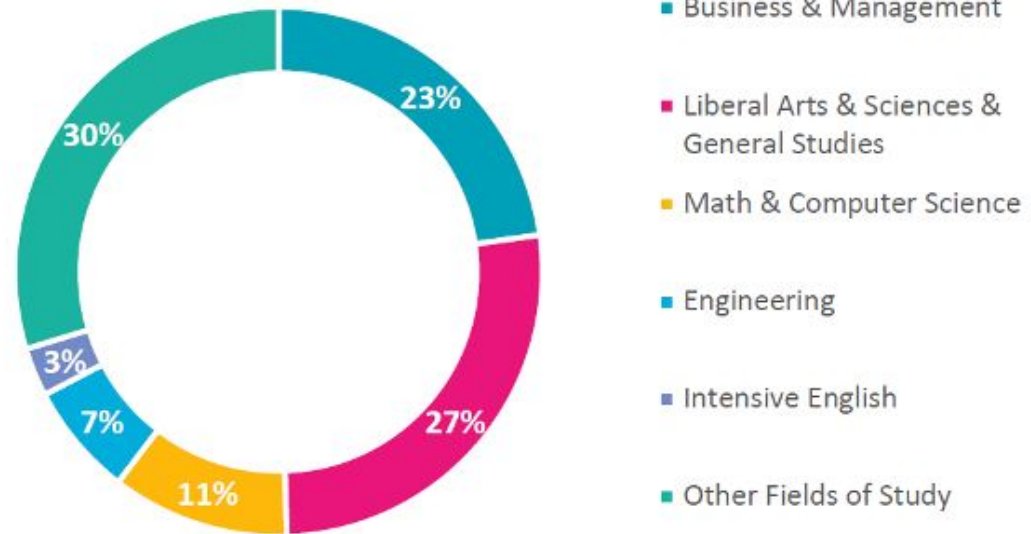
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# Int'l Challenges at CCs

- Lack of data tracking the success of CC transfer students
- 4-year institutions are present in CCc but not the other way around, so co-recruitment efforts are hard
- Int'l students primarily enroll in transferable programs



# Potential Collaboration Opportunities:

- Meaningful transfer agreements
- Co-application for grants
- Having future transfer students participate in study abroad programs
- 2+2 programs with foreign institutions, where the first two years in USA would be at a CC, with guaranteed transfer afterwards



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## Session Structure

- I. Welcome & Intros
- II. Overview:  
Comparative analysis of approaches to study abroad and int'l student recruitment from university and CC perspectives
- III. Panel Discussion:  
Perspectives on analysis, study abroad & int'l student recruitment
- IV. Table Discussions:  
Discuss potential collaborations btw CC's & universities
- V. Debrief & Commentary from panelists regarding collab ideas



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