

2024
Annual Conference

Leading
International
Education
at a Crossroads

## Rise of the Global Partnerships Professional

- Corey Blackmar
-Ruth Levenkron
- Eric Wirth


## Introductions



Corey Blackmar (he/him)
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\& Internationalization

Emerson College Boston, MA


Ruth W. Levenkron (she/her)

University of Rochester Rochester, NY

Eric A. Wirth (he/him)
Manager of Global Partnerships


University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA

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## Today's Agenda

- Rationale
- Institutional Profiles
- Emerson College (Ideating)
- UMass Amherst (Implementing)
- University of Rochester (Established)
- SIO Survey on GP Staff
- Demographics
- Those w/ GP Staff
- Those w/o GP Staff
- Job Characteristics
- Next Steps
- Discussion Questions


## Rationale

"...institutional partnerships have emerged as a primary component of comprehensive internationalization strategies. International partnerships support institutions as they diversify their educational offerings, amplify their research portfolios, augment
their corporate engagement strategies, and extend the impact of their service."

Jane Gatewood
NAFSA's Guide to International Partnerships, 2020

- AIEA Senior International Officer Profile Survey
(Linkages/partnerships a top-three priority for SIOs)
- Mapping Internationalization on U.S. Campuses (American Council on Education, 2022) Partnerships with institutions/organizations abroad 2nd highest priority after international recruitment
- To date, no data on dedicated global partnership personnel across US colleges and universities


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## Emerson

$C O L L E G E$

## Provost/Chief Academic Officer

Vice Provost, Internationalization \& Equity


## Internationalization \& Equity

- Positions: Director, Global Partnerships \& Internationalization; Assistant Director, Global Programs \& Student Advising
- Major responsibilities: Strategy, int|zn philanthropy, standards \& protocols, liaison to academic leadership, faculty opportunities, data and reporting
- 12 institutional partnerships, mostly in Westernized but looking to expand
- Types: 1:1 exchanges, joint research center, joint and dual degree programs; agreements tend to be multi-prong
- Challenges: Standardization of partnership intake and maintenance; making partnerships equitable and mutually beneficial


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- Managing agreements
- Collecting data
- Assessing partner activity
- Reviews new \& renewing engagements to ensure their effectiveness
- Supports strategic collaboration with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement
- Shape data-driven initiatives
- Works with academic and administrative units to advance global partnerships and learning goals
- Organizes high-level visits from international partners and designs global engagement programs.


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## 36 Active Memorandums of Agreement.

A mandate to establish comprehensive agreements that are interdisciplinary, align with institutional priorities/ objectives, while including diverse engagement types such as:

Challenges

- Human resources
- Building a new culture
- Funding
- mobility
- research engagement
- academic pathways such as joint degrees or cotutelle


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## Office for Global Engagement

- Positions: Director of Global Engagement and Associate Director of International Partnerships.
- Major responsibilities: Strategy, resources, implementation, tracking, reporting.
- 93 active agreements which include MoUs, exchanges, one-sided mobility, and customized research collaborations
- Challenges: data, rogue actors, guiding internal/external stakeholders on how to initiate collaboration.


## Survey Demographics

## 34 Respondents

- 21 have global partnerships as part of the strategic plan
- 13 do not.




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## Those with Defined Position

| Reporting To |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Assistant Vice President | 1 |
| Assistant Vice Provost | 1 |
| Associate Provost | 3 |
| Associate Vice President <br> (SIO) | 1 |
| Associate Vice Provost | 3 |
| Director | 1 |
| Recruitment Manager | 5 |
| SIO* | 10 |
| Vice Provost | 34 |
| (blank) | Pa |

## POSITION AGE



## Those without

| Plan to Add? |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| GP? | No | Yes | (blank) | Grand Total |
| Private | 4 | 1 | 5 | 10 |
| No | 4 | 1 |  | 5 |
| Yes | 4 | 1 | 19 | 5 |
| Public | 4 | 1 | 5 | 5 |
| No |  | 19 | 19 |  |
| Yes | 8 | 24 | 34 |  |
| Grand Total |  |  |  |  |

\#1 Barrier - Funding!

Other areas with GP responsibilities:

- Support
(College/School/Department/ Faculty Managed)
- Other (Admissions, Graduate School, ISSS, Research)


## Job Description



## Next Steps

Where do we go from here?
Resources

- NAFSA Guide to International Partnerships
- AIEA Annual Conference
- AIEA Senior International Officer Survey (2020)
- Mapping Internationalization on US Campuses (ACE)
- LinkedIn Groups
- International Partnerships Professionals in Higher Education (IPPHE)


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## Discussion Questions

- What are your institutional challenges in creating or nurturing a distinct Global Partnerships unit?
- How do you envision working with a Global Partnerships unit with respect to your own responsibilities?
- What is most useful to take back to your institution?

Where is your institution in terms of having a Global Partnerships Unit?

```
Ideating
1 \(0 \%\)
Implementing
10\%
Already Established

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\section*{Thank You!}

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