

# The International Student Experience, on the Ground: Integrated and Embraced, or a Mismatch between Reality and Expectations?

**Rodolfo R. Altamirano, Ph.D.**

**2014 Association of International Education  
Administrators**

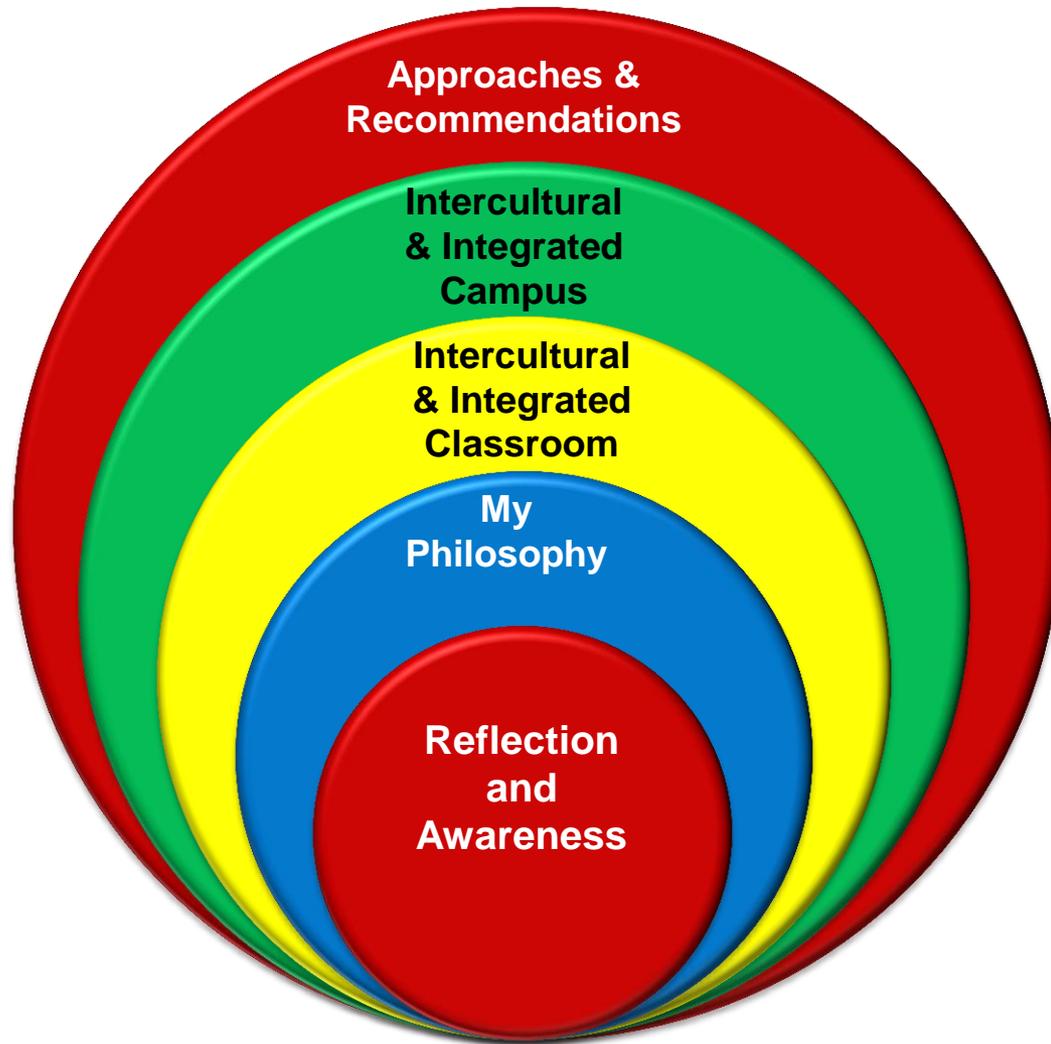
**Annual Conference**

**Cannon Room, JW Marriott**

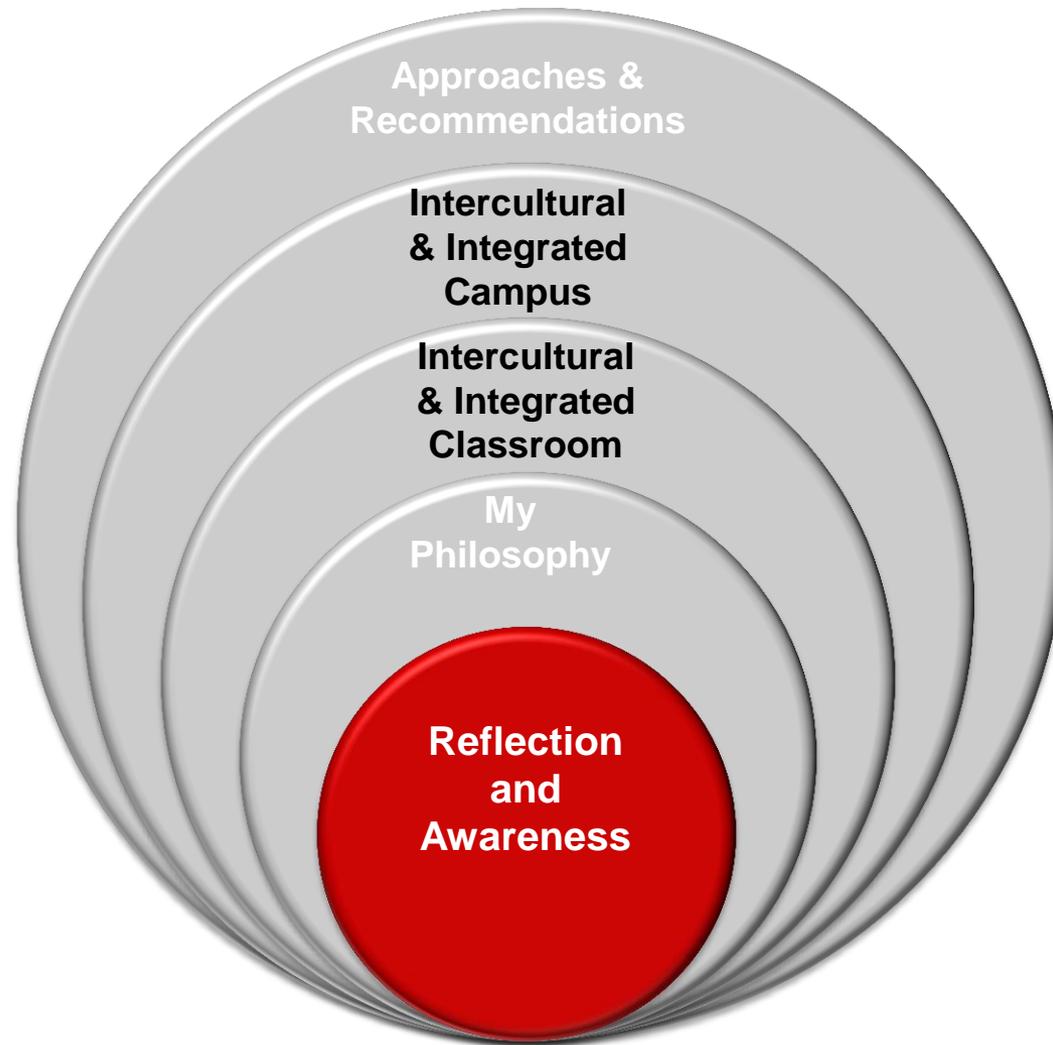
**Washington DC**

**Tuesday, February 18, 2014**

# Path towards integration...



# Reflection



# Penn welcomes students from across the globe!

6,024 international students from 113 countries for Fall 2013

## Top 5 countries of origin:

China	1,839
India	815
South Korea	482
Canada	395
Saudi Arabia	229

## Europe

United Kingdom	127
France	89
Spain	62
Germany	51
Italy	49

## Middle East

Saudi Arabia	229
Turkey	105
Kuwait	68
Israel	42
Iran	40

## Asia

China	1,839
India	815
South Korea	482
Taiwan	164
Japan	129

## Africa

Nigeria	24
Kenya	22
Ghana	19
Morocco	13
Egypt	10

## Oceania

Australia	58
New Zealand	22

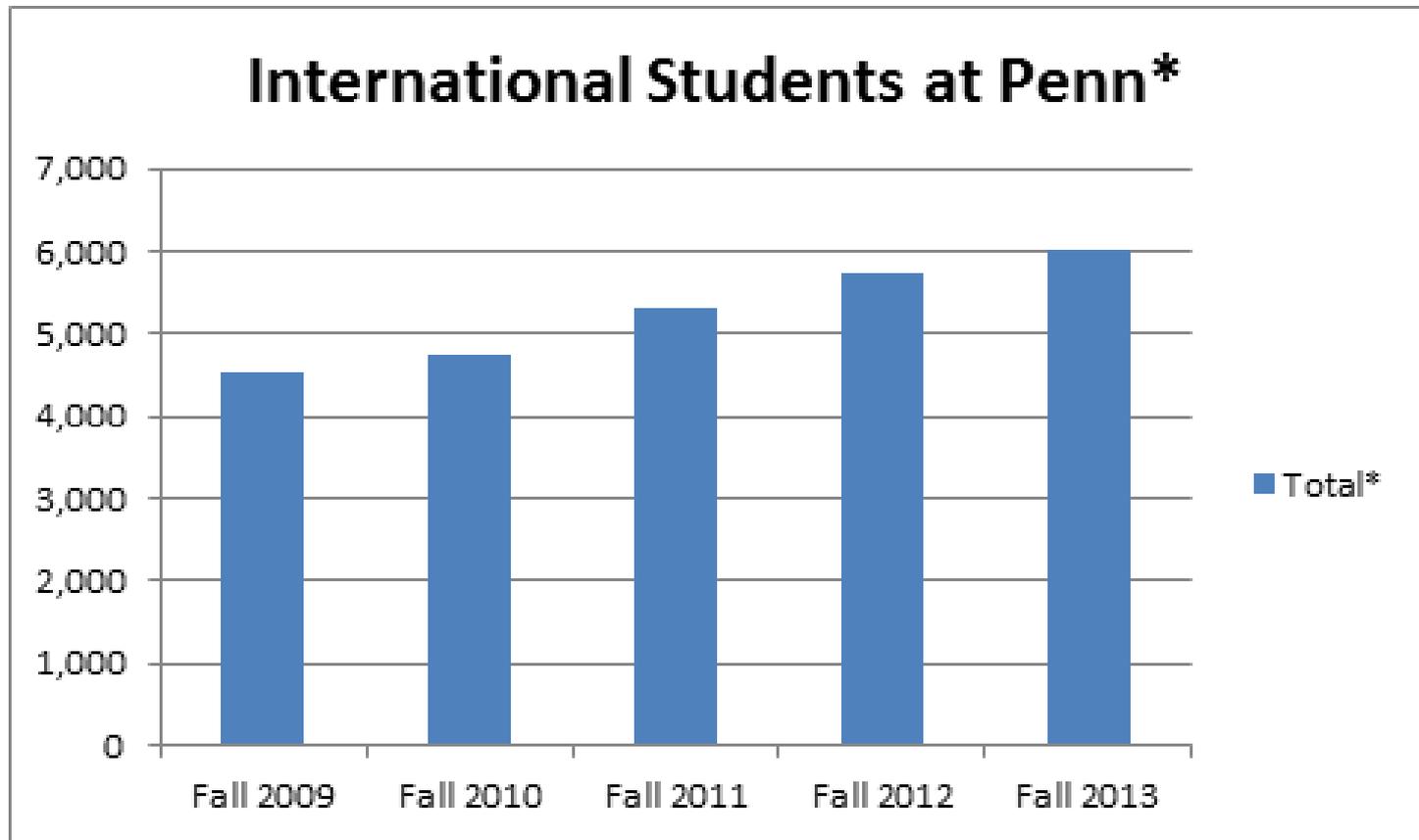
## North America/Central America

Canada	395
Mexico	73
Panama	10
Guatemala	6
El Salvador	6

## South America

Brazil	89
Colombia	54
Chile	30
Peru	29
Argentina	21

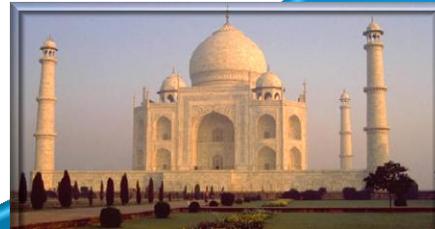
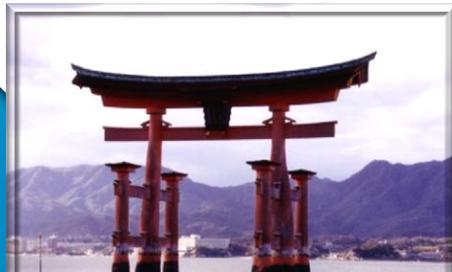
**Penn international students have been steadily increasing...**



\*Source: ISSS Student Data Fall 2013 as of October 14, 2013 • Student Information

# Immigration challenges

- Changes in U.S. government visa and student tracking regulations.
- Increased government scrutiny
- Unanticipated changes in government regulations and protocols



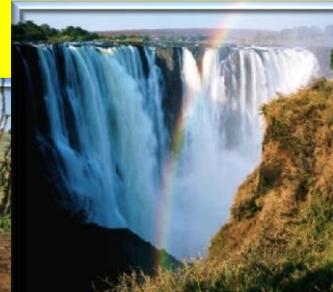
# Academic Performance and Classroom Integration

- Classroom participation challenges
- Different academic culture and expectation
- Diverse pedagogical approaches
- Unfamiliarity with classroom experience and dynamics

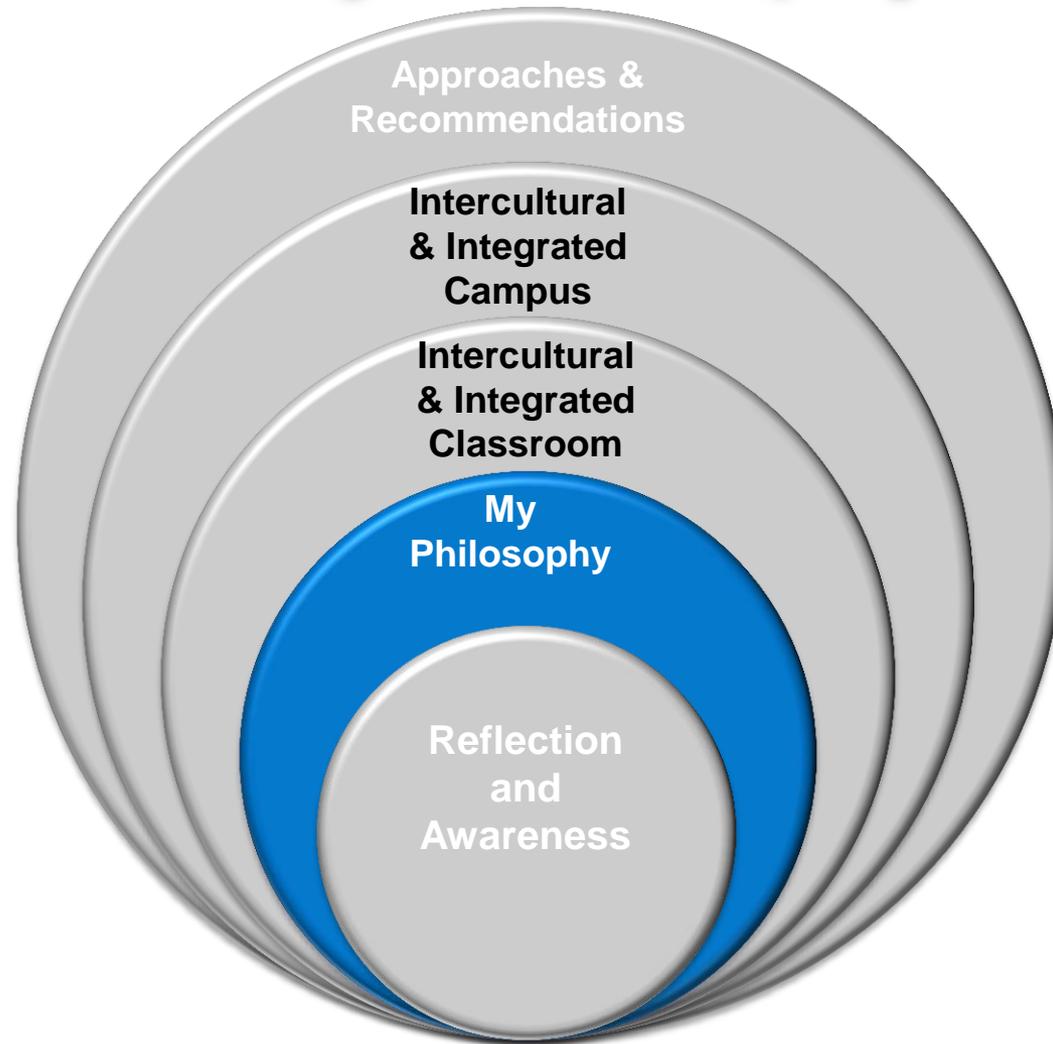


# Student Life and Cultural Integration

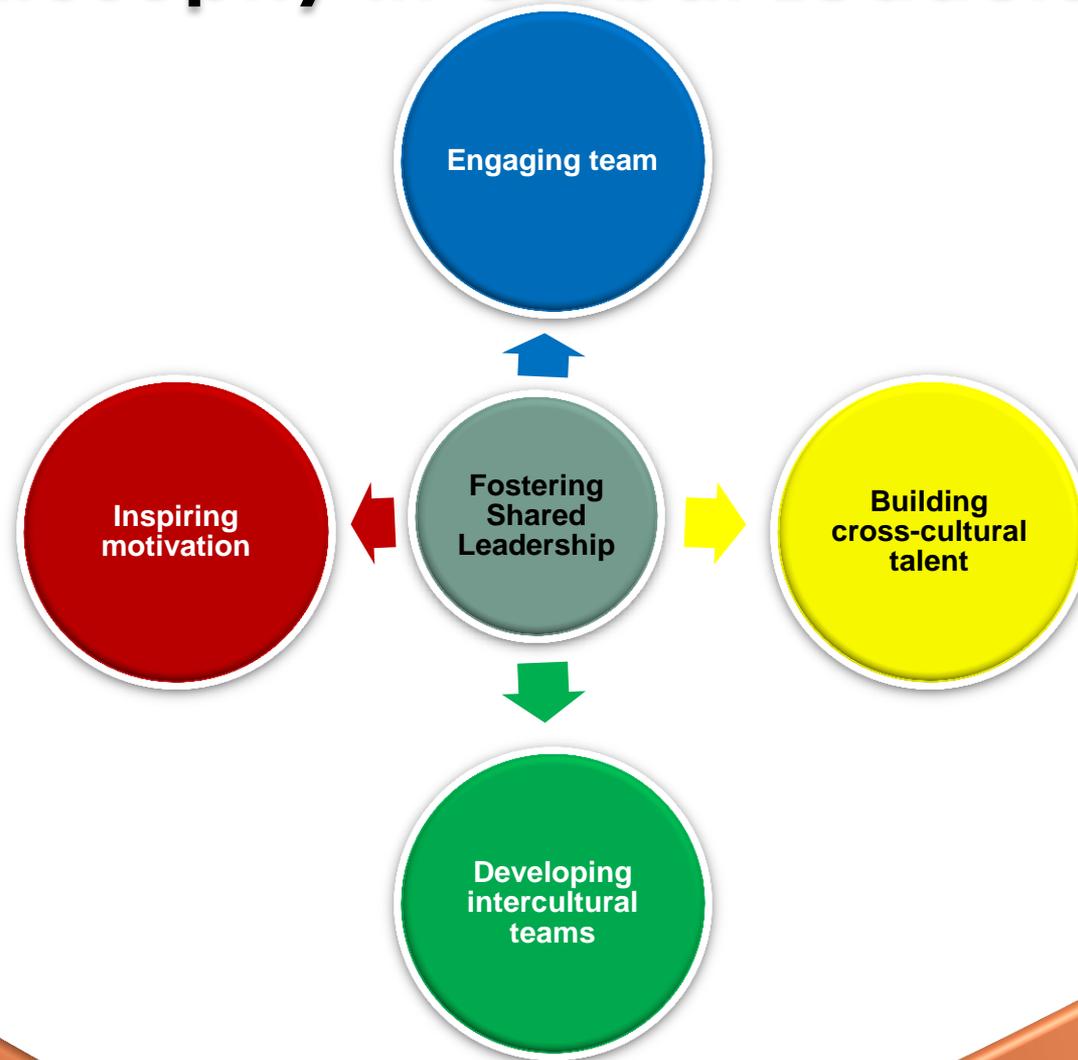
- Campus community's unfamiliarity with international student issues
- Need for a supportive campus climate
- Desire for integration with domestic students



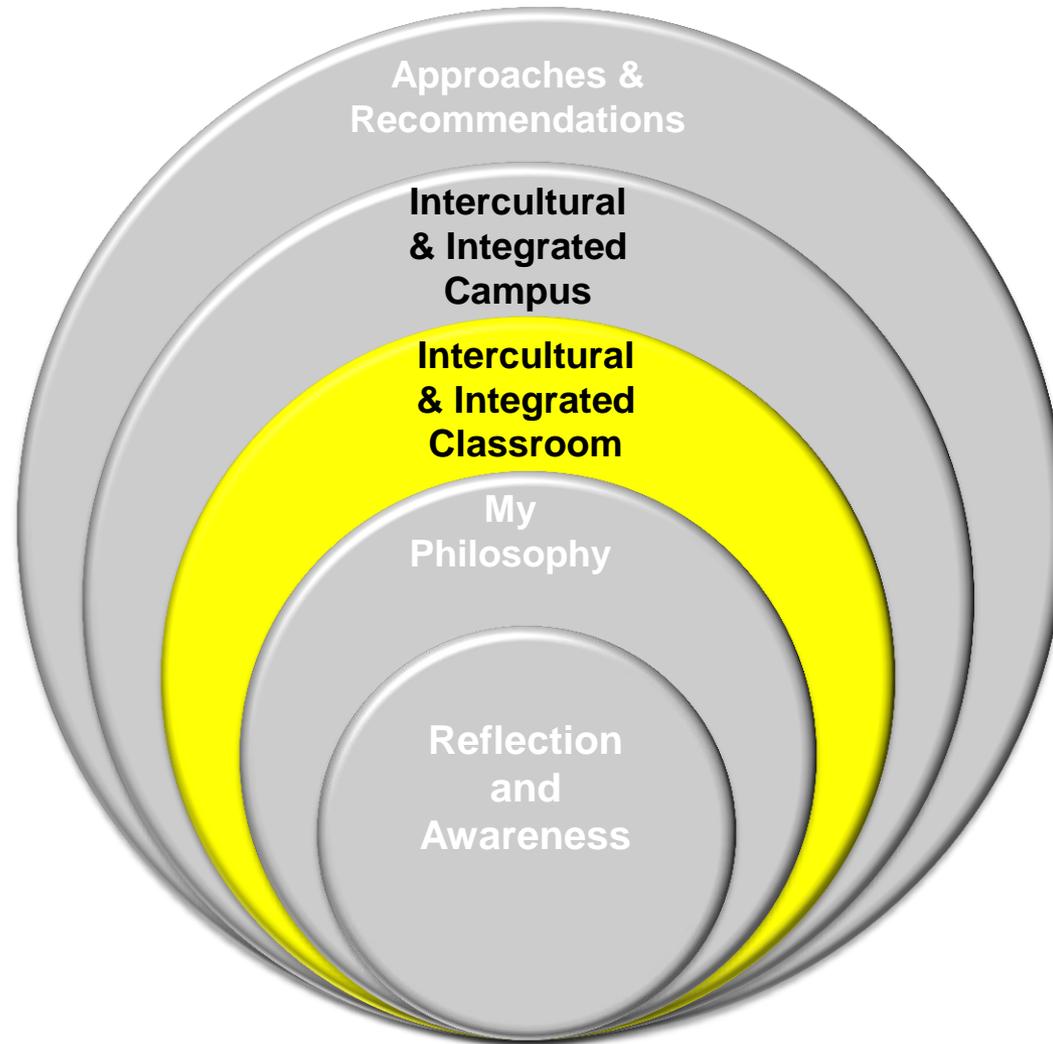
# My Philosophy



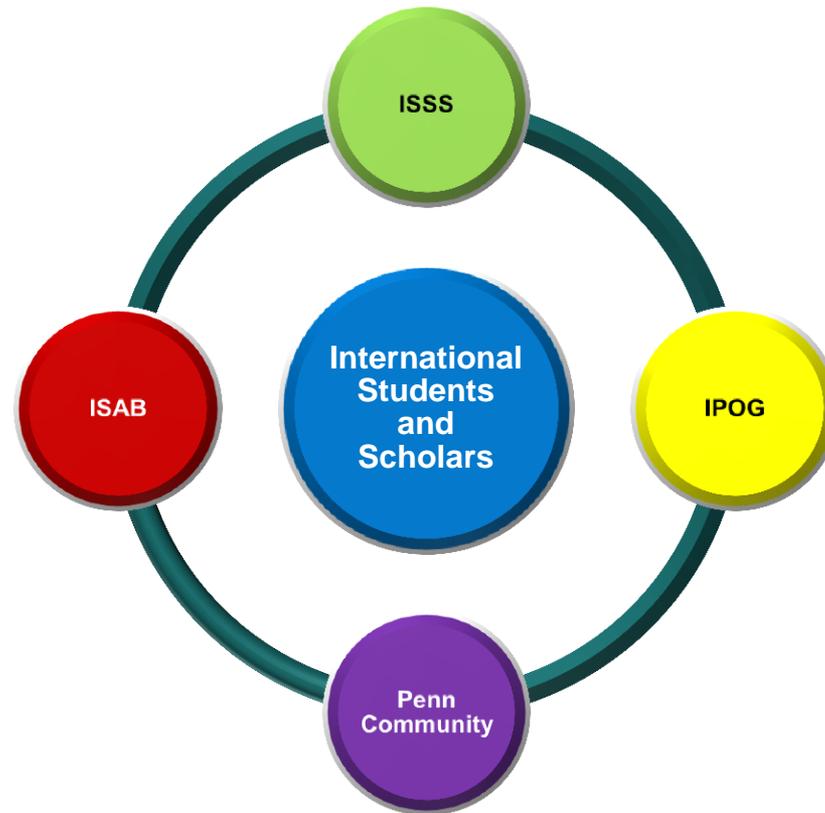
# My Philosophy in Global Leadership



# Intercultural Classroom



# My Service Philosophy



# My Service Approach

**Holistic Attention**

**Welcoming Environment**



# In partnership with ISSS, a broad range of university offices provide services to Penn's International Community

## Safety and Legal Compliance

Public Safety

Office of the General Counsel

Office of Federal Relations

Office of Student Conduct

## Academic and University Support

Academic Advising

Office of the Vice Provost for University Life

Weingarten Learning Resource Center

Student Health

Student Financial Services

Career Services

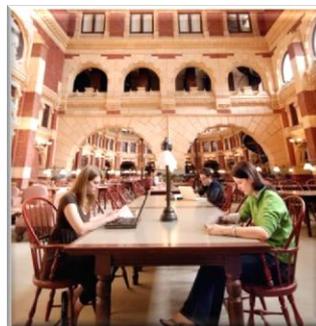
## Community Life and Cultural Experience

Graduate Student Center

Greenfield Intercultural Center

Counseling and Psychological Services

College Houses and Academic Services



In addition, ISSS sponsors three university groups:

- **International Student Advisory Board**  
A forum for undergraduate and graduate students to raise concerns to the university
- **International Partners Outreach Group**  
Representatives from key administrative offices who review services to international students and scholars
- **Intercultural Leadership Program**  
International and U.S. students focused on intercultural awareness and understanding on Penn's campus

# Concerns Shared by Students

## Class Participation

Perceived faculty intolerance to student's lack of English proficiency

Student's lack of familiarity with American culture

## Academic Integrity

Lack of familiarity with academic culture

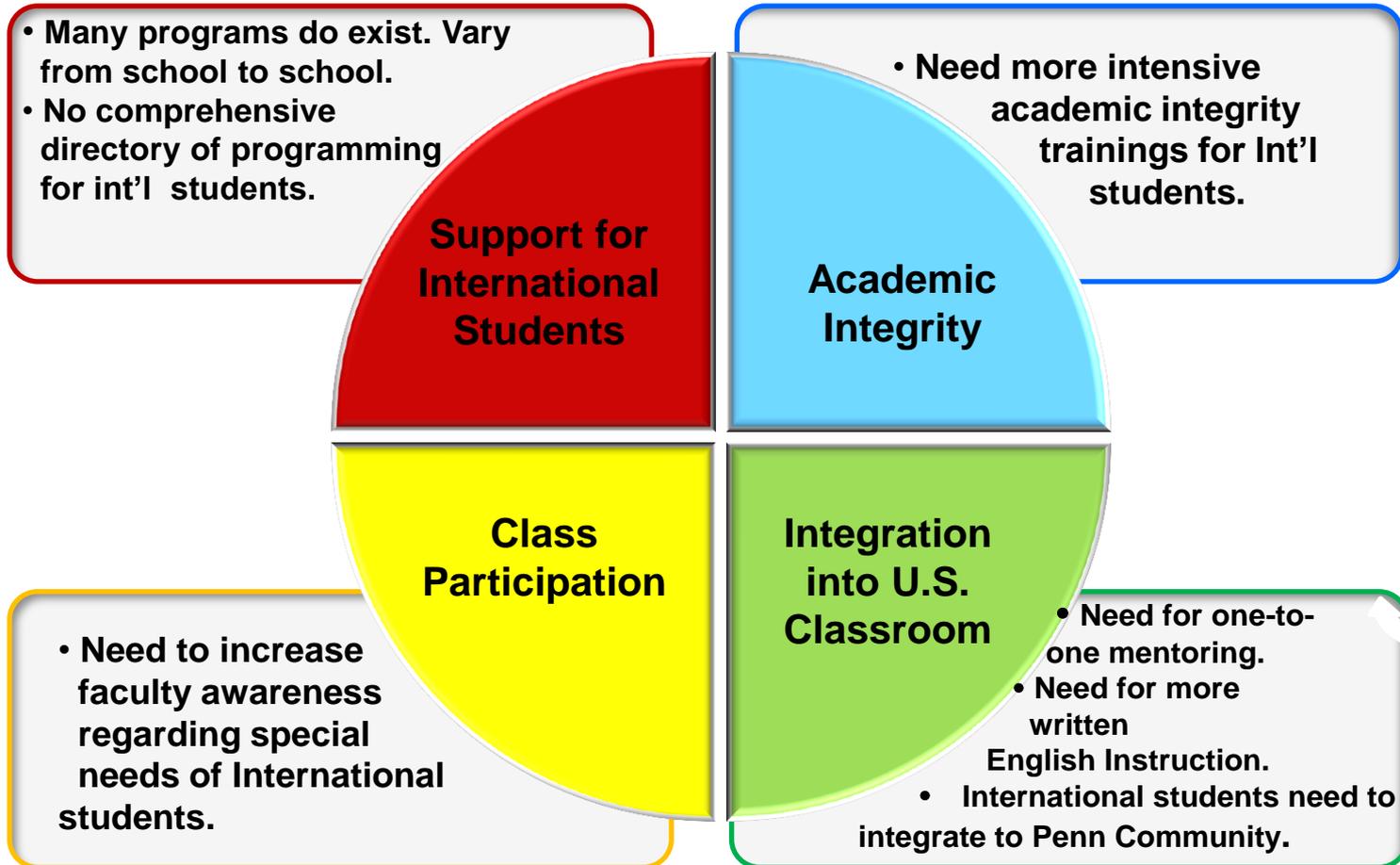
Plagiarism, cheating perhaps due to cultural differences and language problems

## Integration into U.S. Classrooms

Increase awareness of teaching Staff

Educate international students

# Findings from Information Collected



# Recommendations

## Resource Guide:

- Need for a central clearing house of programs for international students.
- Provide directories for students.

## Advise Schools and Faculty:

- Advise schools of best practices from other schools.
- Through the CTL, bring faculty together for discussions.

Recommendations  
from IPOG  
Members

## Orientations:

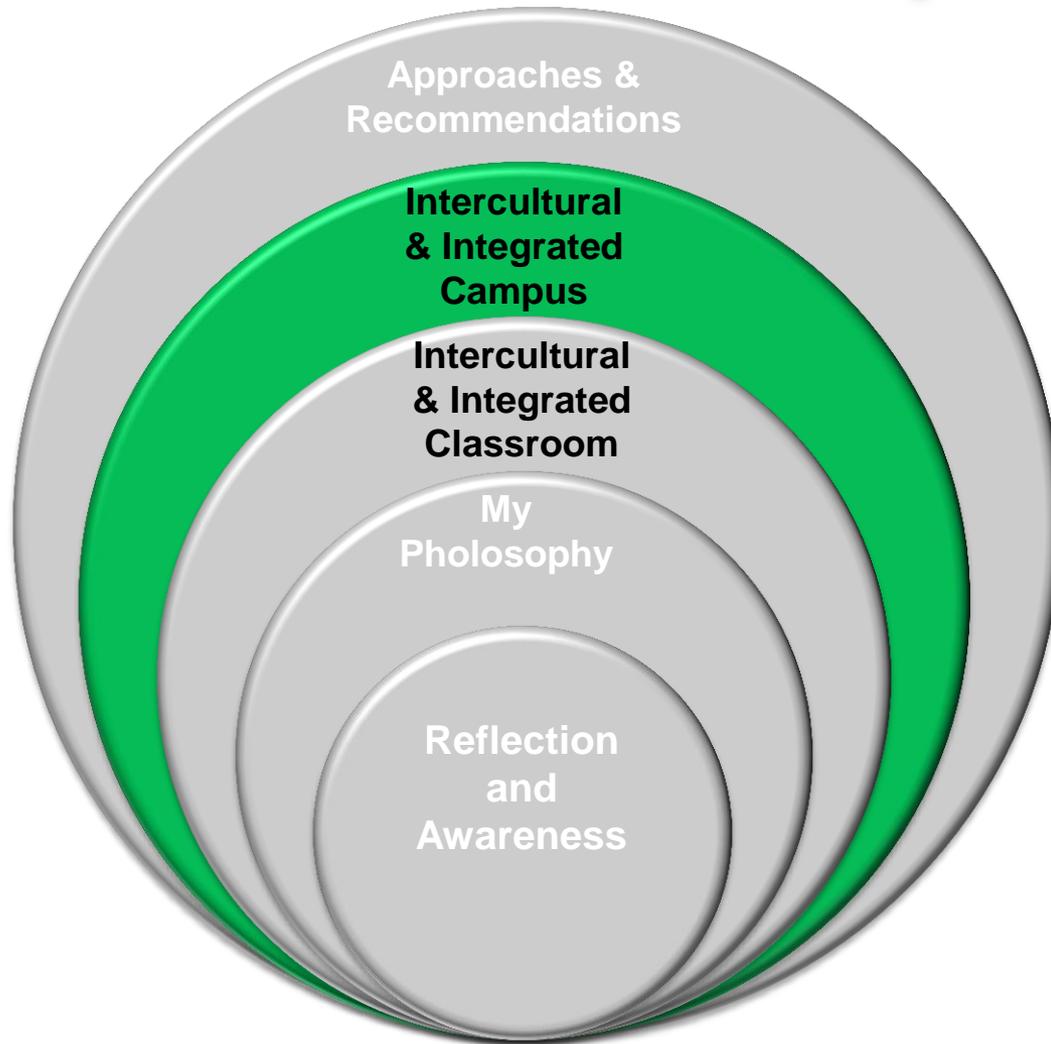
- Spread ISOs throughout the semester to provide on-going academic support.
- ISOs include interactive workshops on academic integrity.

## Integration into

## U.S. Classroom:

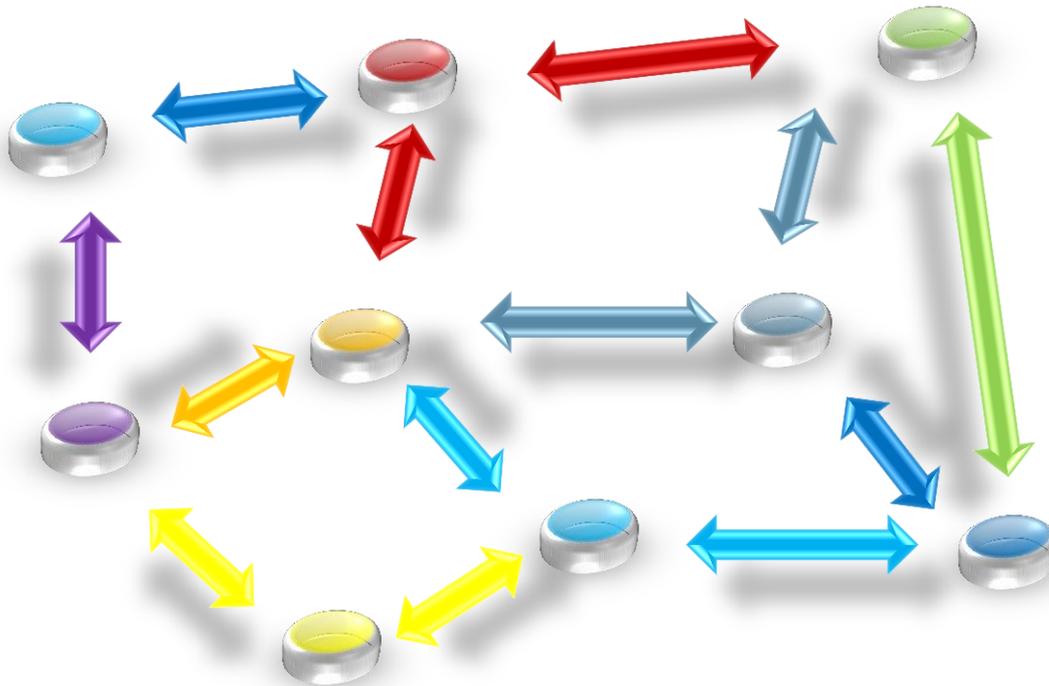
- Recruit and train int'l students to act as mentors to new int'l students.
- Provide workshops on U.S. academic culture and classroom.

# Intercultural Campus



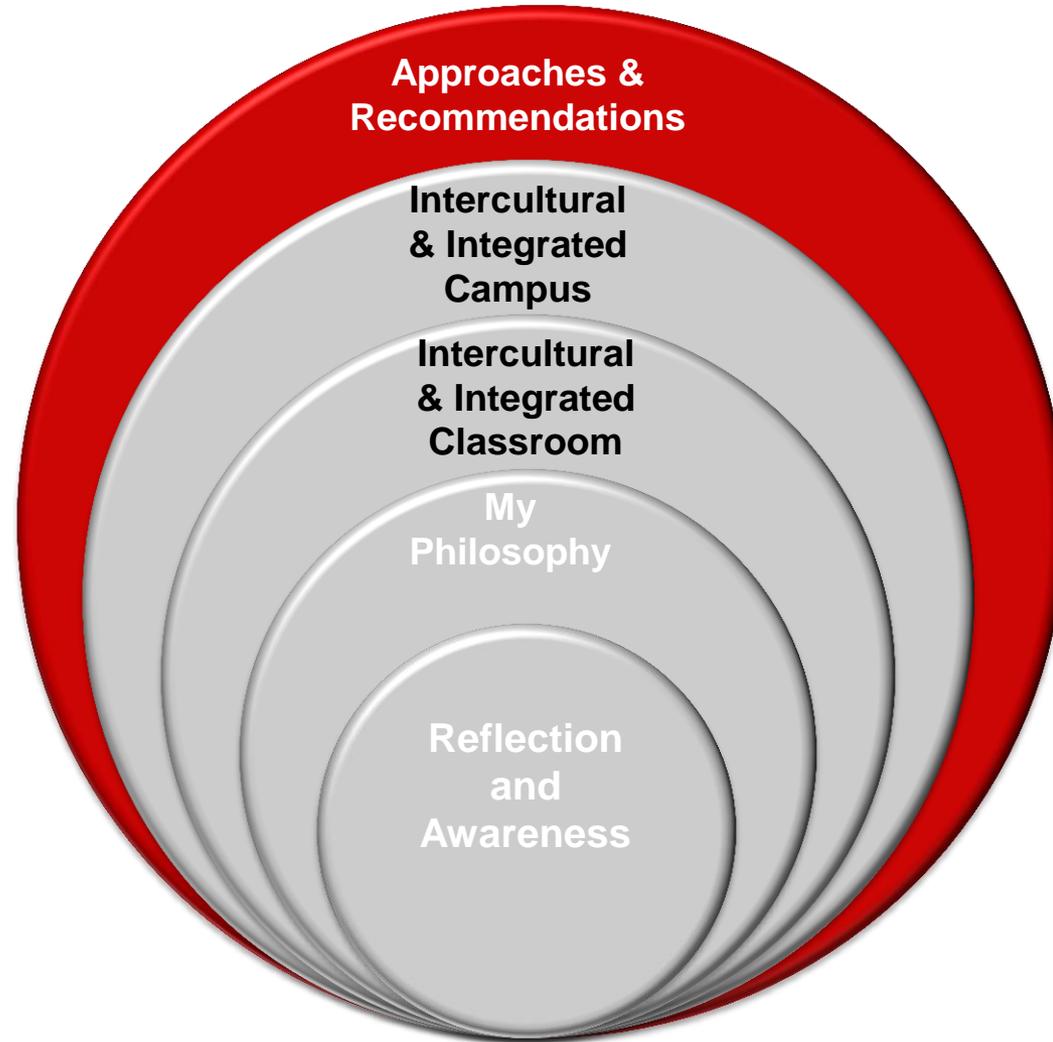
# Intercultural Integration

Working for reciprocity, interchange and common ground...

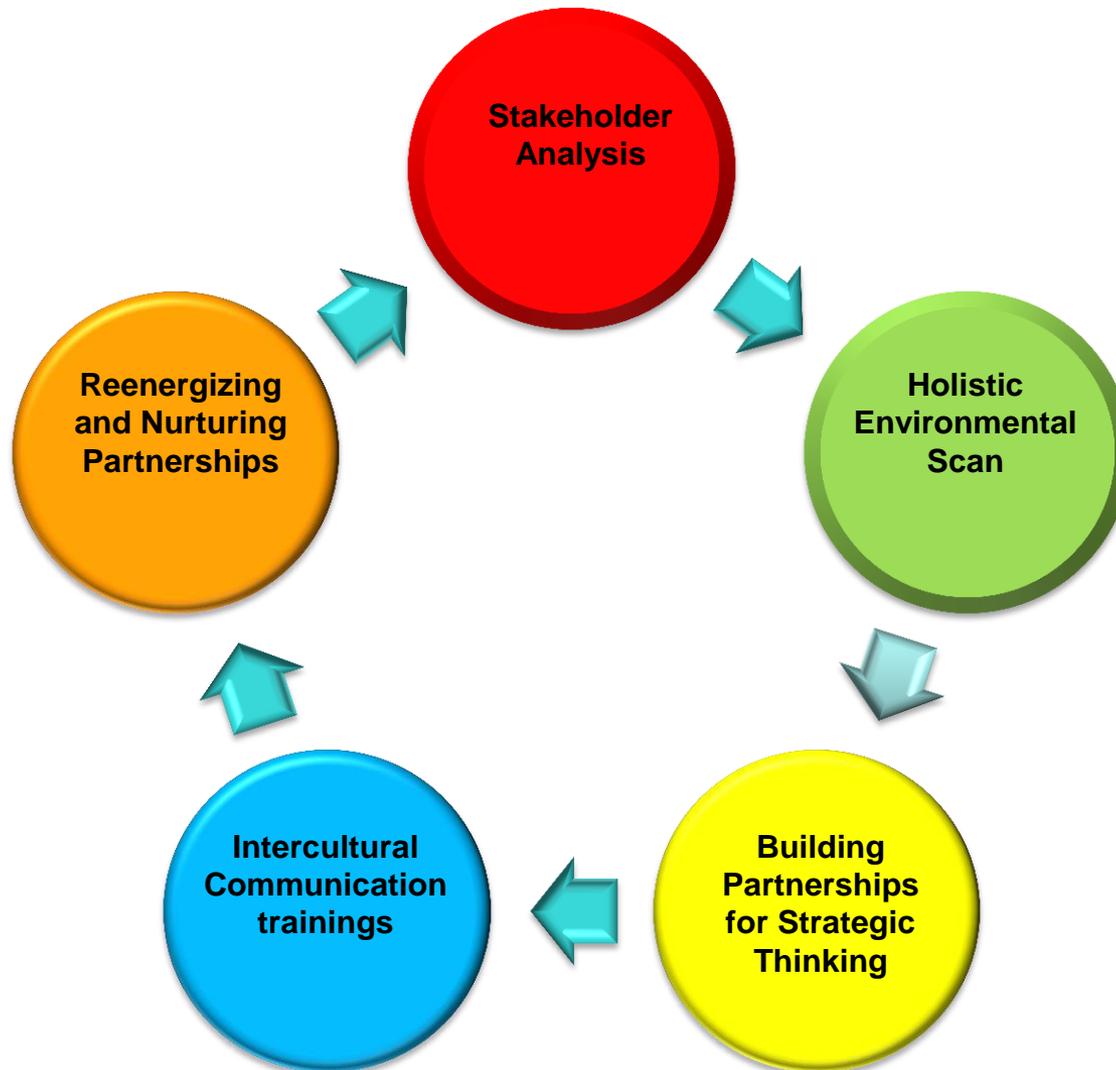


**Communities strive for democracy, mutual respect, equality, understanding, acceptance, freedom, diversity, and appreciation. There is a sense of inspiration for connecting, shaping, transforming, interacting, building relationships, and deeper learning.**

# Approaches and Recommendations



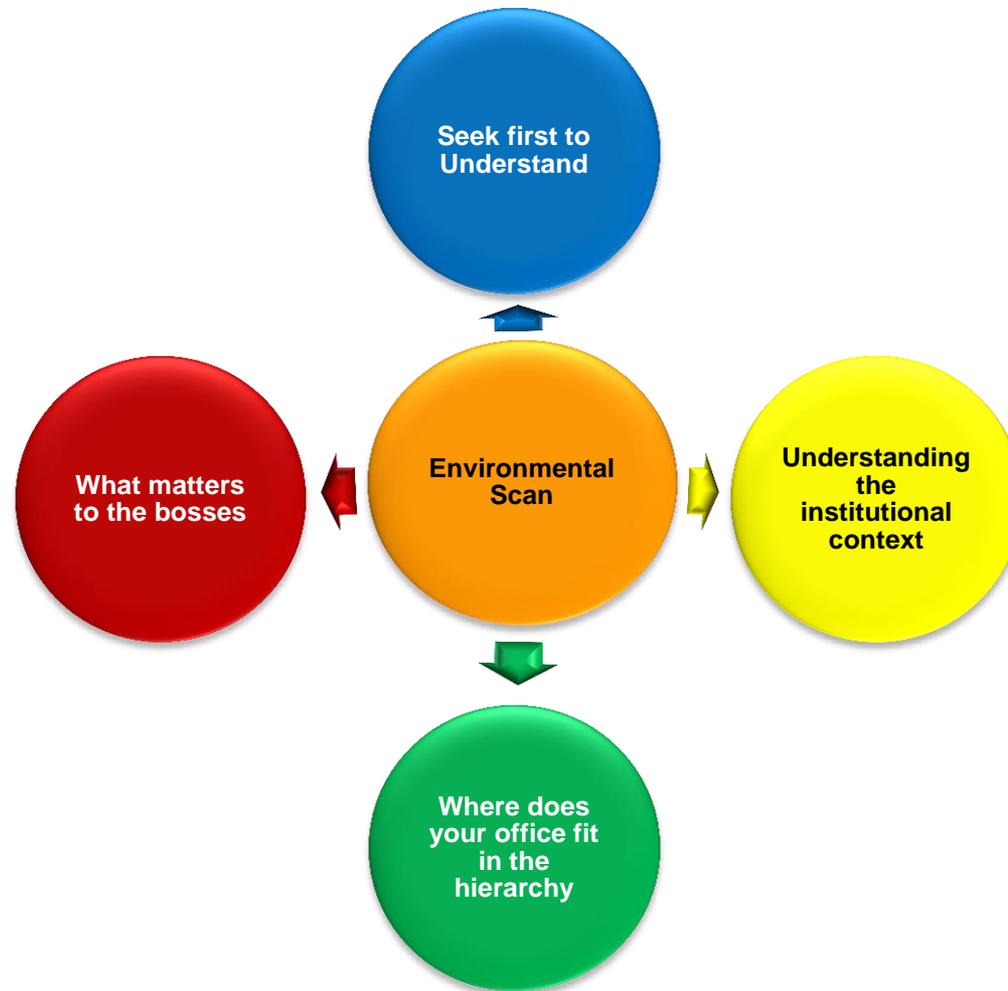
# Recommended Approaches



# Stakeholder Analysis



# Holistic Environmental Scan



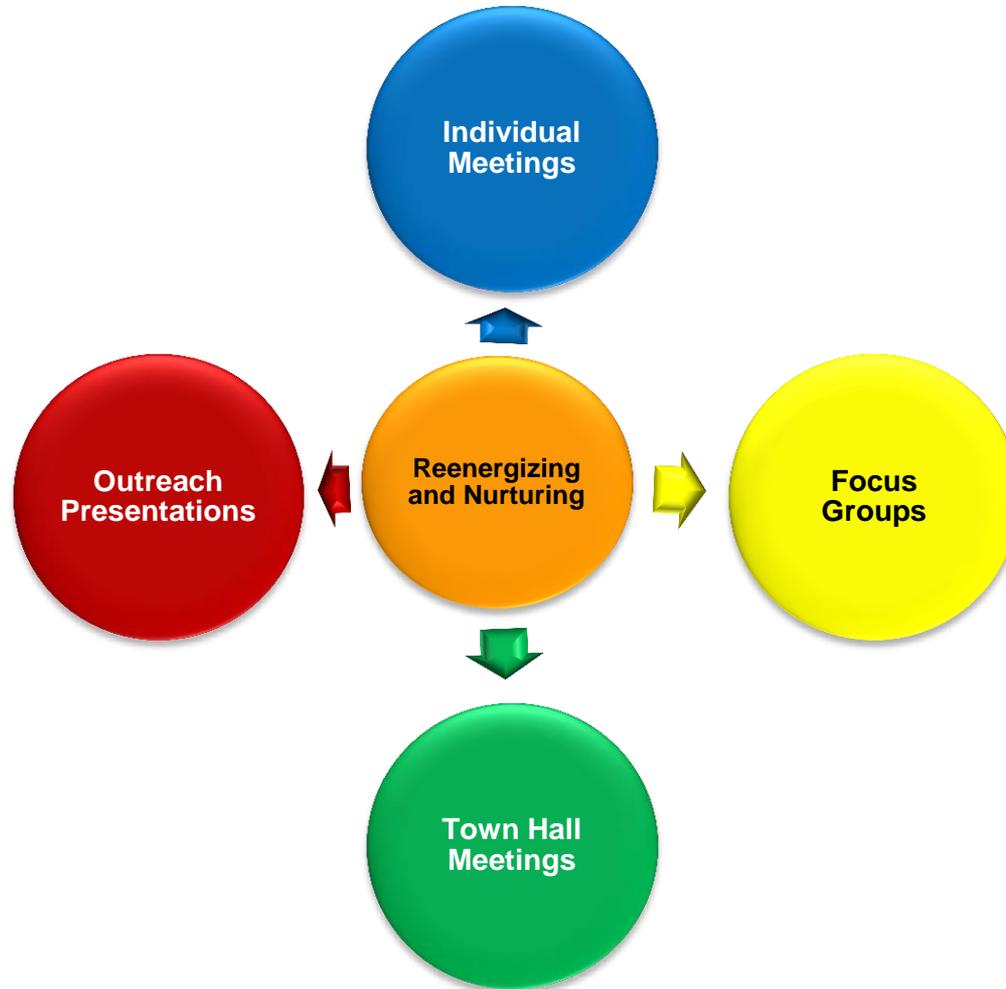
# Building Strategic Partnerships



# Intercultural Communication



# Reenergizing and Nurturing



# References

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- Deardorff, D. K. (2004). *The identification and assessment of intercultural competence as a student outcome of international education at institutions of higher education in the United States*. Unpublished dissertation, North Carolina State University, Raleigh.
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- *Defining Multicultural, Cross-cultural, and Intercultural*. The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Web. 5 May 2013 (Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial No Derivatives (by-ncnd) Licence).