



—a Ferris State international education newsletter

Engaging Virtually & Globally:

Greetings from the Office of International Education. I serve as the Education Abroad Coordinator. My role is to help Ferris students gain global experiences. Unfortunately, due to the impact of the Corona virus pandemic, we were not able to send students on our summer study abroad programs. The COVID-19 global pandemic has challenged us to re-imagine new ways to do our work in creating global experiences. We, in the Office of International Education, saw this as an opportunity to strengthen our efforts and expand our services. I am very pleased to share a new program we have created that will allow us to offer global experiences during these times of social distancing virtual communication.

We have created a new Global Engagement e-Certificate program that will engage our students virtually AND globally. This e-Certificate is aimed to foster student understanding, engagement, and critical reflection about what it means to be a global citizen. It will act as a bridge to connect Ferris State students interested in studying abroad to students from abroad. The staff, faculty, and their peers participating in the program will help the students feel connected to our University during these challenging times. It will also help our office to promote Ferris State as a destination for international students. Therefore, this program will serve to support recruitment of international students and retention of our current students.

As an Institution, we have committed to preparing our students for a dynamic global society. It is important to continue to provide students with opportunities to engage with their peers and to nurture the realization that they are connected to a local and global ecosystem of which they are a vital part. This opportunity will allow Ferris students, students from international partner schools, and incoming international students to engage and think critically about relevant issues and challenges of our time in a structured, meaningful way.

It is more important than ever for our university and our students to be globally engaged and prepared. In the next page you can read more about the details of the e-Certificate program. Please connect with me if you are interested or would like to invite your students to be part of this program.

Megan Hauser-Tran
Education Abroad Coordinator



Global Engagement e-Certificate

The Global Engagement e-Certificate is a unique virtual program. It is a 4-week program that will engage participants for a total of 20 hours of activities centered upon global concerns related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG). Students participating in this program will learn about the 17 UNSDG based on the 2030 UN SDG adopted by the UN in 2015. The e-Certificate program is structured as part of the BEYOND Initiative. The BEYOND Initiative, hosted by the Office of International Education, is a campus-wide project to infuse global awareness. The BEYOND theme adopted for Academic Years 2019-2022 is Sustainability, hence, the e-Certificate focus on the UNSDG.

Students participating in this program will read and review weekly background content related to UNSDG to establish essential vocabulary and context surrounding the specific goal. Participants will then engage with each other virtually through Zoom in virtual deliberative dialogues; the deliberative dialogue model is a method of discussion that focuses on examining possible avenues of action in addressing a critical issue in order to weigh the benefits and drawbacks of those actions. Through exploring the themes of sustainability through scientific research, supply chains, urbanization, and global health, students who participate in the program will gain greater understanding of how these and other concepts intertwine and how the understanding and embracing of our interconnectedness is vital to finding ways of achieving sustainability.

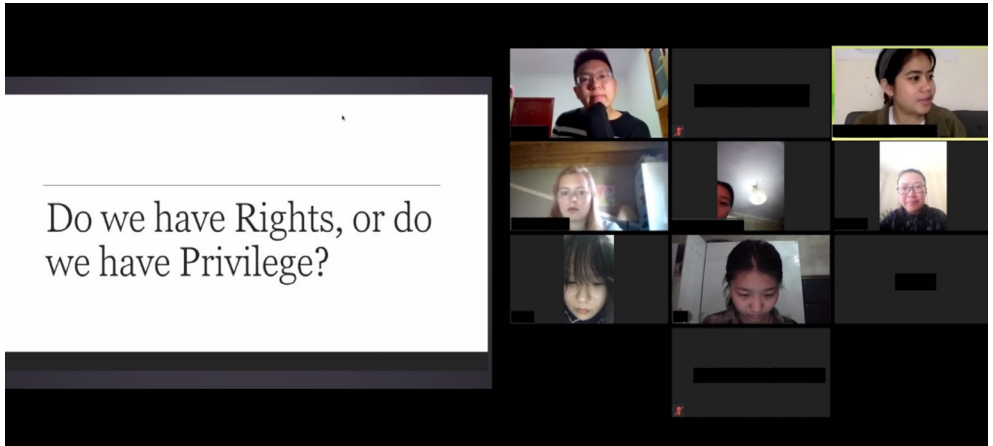
We are anticipating students from our partners in China and India to participate with our students in this program, and are in talks with our Korean partners as well. Participants in the program will not only gain background knowledge of global systems from the certificate curricular content, but also connect with peers from around the world. This experience is invaluable to students as it empowers them and others through perspective-sharing as well as perspective-taking.

The Global Engagement e-certificate program will repeat in three different sessions over the course of the summer; we are excited to begin the first session on May 18th, 2020. Our goal through this program is to provide students a quality experience that fosters their global understanding and connection to Ferris and beyond.





Moment In Time:



The Office of International Education has been hosting our Virtual Deliberative Dialogue series to keep our domestic and international students engaged in conversations focusing on critical issues. Students from all over the globe joined together to continue examining issues such as rights, privileges, ethics, immigration, and healthcare to find common ground in approaching solutions and resolutions.



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