



—a Ferris State international education newsletter

CIP Pillar 2: How to Achieve International Perspectives?

Greetings from the Office of International Education (OIE). Our Comprehensive Internationalization Plan (CIP), outlined in our Summer 2019 Issue 1 newsletter, is well underway. The plan will focus on identifying metrics for successful outcomes using five key pillars. In our last newsletter, we outlined how benchmarking internationally (CIP Pillar 1) can help us achieve our core value of excellence.

In this newsletter, we will articulate how infusing international and comparative perspectives into student learning (CIP Pillar 2) can be achieved through our core value of collaboration.

Michigan universities are currently facing significant financial challenges with decreasing enrollment due to demographics and changes to higher education delivery models. With decreasing resources, how can we continue serving students to prepare them for our global economy and society? How do we achieve outcomes tied to CIP Pillar 2?

The CIP process hopes to connect our common understanding of the challenges ahead to the opportunities that come through collaboration. The CIP focuses on international education as a means to optimize resources and talent to not only help our students gain international and comparative perspectives but also find gainful employment in our interconnected and integrated world.

Currently, the varied opportunities for global engagement are not easily accessible to many members of our student body. How do we make this happen? By seeking synergy through collaboration and connecting the resources available through the many partnerships we have within the University, in Michigan and around the world. How do we ensure that we effectively serve our residential students and at the same time serve the off-campus, online, and dual enrollment student populations when resources are limited? In the OIE, we call this a last mile connectivity challenge.

In the next few pages, you can explore how gaining international and comparative perspectives can be achieved at Ferris by addressing last mile connectivity challenges.

I invite you to connect with us to share your thoughts and also engage us in our CIP process.

Dr. Piram Prakasam
Executive Director, Office of International Education



Last mile connectivity (LMC) through Collaboration:

Infusing international and comparative perspectives into student learning is **at the root** of preparing our students to succeed in our global economy and society.

Our general education curriculum requires students to demonstrate competency in culture, self and society, and diversity through international and comparative perspectives. Events and activities on campus offered by various programs, colleges, and offices provide students opportunities to learn about different cultures and gain comparative perspectives. We have also built relationships and networks with academic institutions, community organizations, and industry partners to enhance experiential learning opportunities. Do these efforts help our students achieve the learning outcomes that will help them succeed in a global economy and society?

Our recent 2016 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) data indicates that relative to peer institutions, senior students at Ferris have fewer discussions with people from different races, ethnicities, and religions. What students are learning, observing, and experiencing do not seem to be aligning effectively to support holistic student learning. In spite of efforts and energies spent by various programs, colleges and offices, NSSE data indicates that we are behind our peers. In the OIE, we call this the “last mile connectivity” challenge: the challenge of connecting the individual learner to the various opportunities offered by the University.

How do we holistically and effectively engage a student body whose members may take classes on-campus as traditional residential students, part-time as commuter or non-traditional students, online, at our statewide locations, or through dual enrollment? Our students also come from different backgrounds with different levels of preparation for the university experience. How do we engage them to help them persist to graduation? How do we offer value addition to help them go to the next level?

We believe the Comprehensive Internationalization Planning (CIP) provides an opportunity to inform, engage and invite the various stakeholders to invest in collaborating with us to achieve the “last mile connectivity” for our students in gaining international and comparative perspectives.

Over the past ten years, the Office of International Education has collaborated

with individuals and organizations with global interests and experiences both on-campus and off-campus to cultivate an ecosystem to infuse these perspectives.

The Beyond Initiative has been nationally recognized by the Institute of International Education (IIE) as a best practice in campus internationalization. It addresses the core issue of last mile connectivity by intentionally connecting classroom learning to co-curricular and experiential learning opportunities. The Beyond Initiative has been championed by a dedicated group of faculty and staff and serves as a model to achieve last mile connectivity. This is a scalable model that the University can strategically embrace as a solution for our NSSE data challenge.

Significant coordination is needed to connect the curriculum to co-curricular opportunities around a common global theme. A CIP process that is informed, intentional, and inclusive will help us achieve a common understanding of resources available locally, regionally, and globally. More importantly, though, we can encourage and design intentional collaborations to connect the curriculum and students to opportunities that help them complete the last mile from learning to observation to experience.

If you have not had the opportunity to learn about the Beyond Initiative, you can check out our newsletter (Spring 2019, Issue 4) in the link below.

<https://www.ferris.edu/international/pdfs-docs/Spring2019Issue4.pdf>

The Beyond Advisory Council, comprised of over 40 faculty and staff, selects a theme through which faculty and staff on campus infuse global perspectives into the curriculum and co-curricular activities. Past themes for Beyond have been:

- Beyond: The Silk Road
- Beyond: Mythologies
- Beyond: Diversity
- Beyond: Globalization
- Beyond: Globalization and Ferris
- Beyond: Conflict
- Beyond: Conflict Resolution

This year, the Beyond Advisory Council is collaborating with the University Sustainability Committee on the selection and planning for the next Beyond Initiative theme. Please see the message below from Dr. Jennifer Johnson, Co-Chair of the University Sustainability Committee about the upcoming Beyond Initiative theme.

Lisa vonReichbauer
Assistant Director, Office of International Education





Members of the Beyond Advisory Council met with members of the University Sustainability Committee on campus and electronically at the end of June to discuss the upcoming theme for the Beyond Initiative.



The Beyond Initiative: 2019-2022

The BEYOND Initiative and the University Sustainability Committee are excited to launch a new, three-year BEYOND project exploring the theme of Sustainability. The idea of sustainability is far-reaching, encompassing environmental, social, and economic strategies, all with the goal of making life today vital and healthy without depleting the necessities required for future generations to do the same. The population of Earth has just reached 7.5 billion people, three times the population just fifty years ago. As this rapid growth continues, it will be more critical than ever for humans to weave sustainability into every aspect of life in our globalized world. Through the BEYOND: Sustainability project, we will host speakers, engage in classroom projects, and host deliberative dialogues across campus to help students access new ways to incorporate sustainable thinking and comparative perspectives into their everyday lives and careers. We invite faculty and staff across campus to collaborate with us to help infuse international themes and perspectives on sustainability into student learning throughout our campus community.

Jennifer Johnson, PhD
 Professor of Geography
 Chair, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences
 Co-Chair University Sustainability Committee



In Context:

1. **Read:** Internationalizing Student Learning -American Council on Education - <https://www.acenet.edu/higher-education/topics/Pages/Internationalizing-Student-Learning.aspx>



Moment in Time:



Professor A. R. Venkatachalapathy, a historian from the Madras Institute of Developmental Studies in India visited campus and gave a talk in the IRC on July 15th. He spoke about the dynamics of globalization in India looking back to pre-colonial eras and the rapid changes that have taken place in the post-colonial era since India's independence in 1947.



Imagine more...



Past OIE Newsletters

Summer 2019



Summer 2019 Issue 2



Summer 2019 Issue 1

Spring 2019



Spring 2019 Issue 6



Spring 2019 Issue 5



Spring 2019 Issue 4



Spring 2019 Issue 3



Spring 2019 Issue 2



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Fall 2018



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Fall 2018 Issue 3



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