



—a Ferris State international education newsletter

Moving Ferris Forward, Together:

Greetings from the Office of International Education (OIE). The start of the new academic year is an exciting time. It has been wonderful to reconnect with colleagues, invite back our returning students, and welcome 45 new international students from 15 different countries. The academic year also started with our University facing a significant drop in student enrollment, which also includes a decline in international student enrollment.

Our enrollment challenges communicate the need for all of us to have an understanding of the common challenges we face and to commit to moving forward together. We are challenged by the choices ahead, and the choices we make show who we truly are. Our way forward will be shaped not by individuals but by our collective commitment to an inclusive future. Therefore, the path we take should reflect the vision of our founders. The OIE is proud to share in this issue two key projects we have been working on that connect to this shared vision.

Inclusion Wall: Last spring our campus community came together to create the images of our founders using our individual identities expressed in the form of selfies. We are planning to unveil the portraits on the wall outside of the Office of International Education this fall. The portraits will be part of a larger art project that will express the African philosophy of Ubuntu through our individual and collective journeys. If you would like to see the portraits, stop by the office.

International Student Ambassador Endowment: The idea of Ubuntu is the power of our interconnectedness to make a difference in the lives of others through our action. This summer, a few of us came together to challenge ourselves and others to help make Ferris a welcoming place for international students by committing to the creation of a new endowment. This effort is also in celebration of 135 years of our founder's vision. Mr. Ferris was quoted as saying, "The world is one big family. Time and distance have been annihilated. National isolation is a thing of the past." We are inviting 135 individuals to donate a total of \$13,500 through crowd sourcing. So far, 37 individuals have together pledged \$10,000. We invite you to join us in pledging to this endowment by making Ferris a welcoming place for international students.

Let's take Ferris forward together, by making Ferris a truly welcoming place for all. Henry Ford said, "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."

Dr. Piram Prakasam
Executive Director, Office of International Education



The CIP Process and Deliberative Dialogues: What to Expect

The Comprehensive Internationalization Planning process is getting underway. A campus-wide committee is being formed by the Provost. This committee will be tasked with developing recommendations for the plan. In advance of the committee's work on developing a plan, the Office of International Education is facilitating a data and campus input collection process to help ensure that the process is informed, intentional, and inclusive.

Surveys have so far been completed by 100 individuals on campus, and we have also conducted two deliberative dialogues with 25 participants.

The purpose of the dialogues is to bring members of the campus community together to discuss the potential scope of international education at Ferris, develop a common understanding of the opportunities and challenges, and then gather input and reflections after the dialogues are completed.

We are hosting eight dialogues at the end of September to engage as many members of the campus community as possible. They will be held September 16-19 and September 23-26 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the IRC, room 104. Light refreshments will be served.

The dialogues are scheduled in two hour blocks. Therefore, you may wonder what to expect during a dialogue session.

The dialogues are designed to focus on what role international education plays in carrying out our mission and achieving our vision. The deliberative dialogue model focuses on choices and seeks to unpack the context surrounding the choices to identify opportunities and challenges.

The dialogue will include facilitated discussions on the following three options related to our core values and the scope of international education. Discussion questions and possible drawbacks are presented to help unpack the choices.

Option 1 - Excellence: Benchmarking academic programs beyond regional and national standards to international standards:

This option says that to achieve our mission and vision and live our core value of excellence, Ferris should engage internationally at the academic program level to benchmark against international institutions and adopt best practices in higher education in today's globalized higher education landscape.

Questions for Deliberation:

1. What does your program or area currently do to benchmark against best practices regionally, nationally, and/or globally?
2. In the current structure at Ferris, how could programs at Ferris engage in benchmarking globally? What are our strengths and limitations in pursuing this?
3. How could benchmarking globally help programs prepare our students for a dynamic global society?

Primary Drawback for Consideration:

This option would add more burdens to faculty and staff in the environment of reduced budgetary support.

Option 2 - *Learning and Collaboration*: Infusing international and comparative perspectives through the curriculum, partnerships, and career-oriented, broad-based education:

This option says that to achieve our mission and vision and live our core value of collaboration, Ferris should intentionally infuse international and comparative perspectives in the curriculum and co-curricular experiences and seek partnerships and networks to maximize learning, optimize resources, and achieve success.

Questions for Deliberation:

1. How well does Ferris infuse international and comparative perspectives across student learning in the curriculum and co-curricular activities? How could we improve?
2. How is your program or area currently leveraging partnerships and networks to help prepare students for a dynamic global economy and society? What types of collaborations or networks could help?
3. How can we leverage student mobility and international experiential learning opportunities to infuse international perspectives to maximize student learning and success?

Primary Drawback for Consideration:

This option requires significant collaboration across units, colleges, and divisions. This may be challenging in our current organizational culture.

Option 3 - *Opportunity*: Ensuring Ferris is a welcoming place for international students and scholars by addressing bureaucratic barriers.

This option says that to achieve our mission and vision and live our core value of opportunity, Ferris should intentionally develop systems that reduce barriers to creating a welcoming environment for international students and scholars by understanding the unique needs and benefits they bring to our campus.

Questions for Deliberation:

1. What are the opportunities and benefits associated with international student enrollment at Ferris?
2. From your perspective, what barriers exist to creating a more welcoming environment for international students, faculty, and staff?
3. Why should Ferris, a public university in Michigan, focus on providing educational opportunities for students outside of the United States?

Primary Drawback for Consideration:

In the current environment of declining enrollment and budget cuts, this option would commit more financial resources and labor to support a smaller constituency.

Participants will discuss each option in groups of 6-8 through a structured process. After discussing the options with colleagues from different areas of campus, attendees will receive a brief survey to capture their thoughts and reflections. We encourage

you to join us for an afternoon session in the next couple of weeks. As a reminder, here are a few ways you can be involved in the CIP process.

If you are interested in providing input into the CIP process, you can join us by:

1. Completing our general CIP survey (click on the link below): <https://forms.gle/dH9PJ84JEMaUJpev7>
2. Joining for the Deliberative Dialogues September 16-19 and September 23-26 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the IRC, Room 104. Light refreshments will be served.
3. Checking the University Wide Notices for future dialogues and opportunities to engage.
4. Following our progress in our newsletters.

We look forward to hearing from you in our CIP process.

Lisa vonReichbauer
Assistant Director, Office of International Education

Valerie Campbell
Admissions Coordinator, Office of International Education



In Context:

1. **Watch or Listen:** [President Obama Surprises Obama Youth Jobs Corps Students in Chicago](#)
2. **Read:** [The State of Globalization in 2019, and What it Means for Strategists – Pankaj Ghemawat and Steven A. Altman – Harvard Business Review](#)



Upcoming Events

1. Deliberative Dialogues September 16-19 and September 23-26 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the IRC, Room 104. Light refreshments will be served.
2. BEYOND Advisory Committee Lunch – Sept 26 at 11:00 – IRC 104
3. German Consul General Moessinger will visit campus on Oct. 7 through our partnership with the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan. Details regarding the visit will be shared soon.
4. Study Abroad Fair – Oct. 21 11:00 am – 3:00 pm in UCB 202 and October 23 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in UCB 202



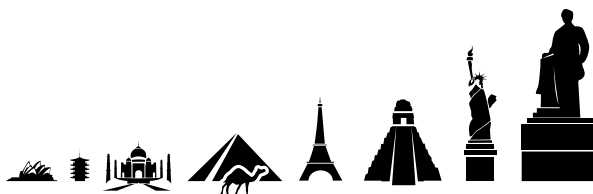
A Moment in Time:



We welcomed new international students from over 15 different countries for the fall 2019 semester. We had a great orientation and a fun international student welcome picnic in the park!



Ferris Forward



Past OIE Newsletters

Summer 2019



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