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BRIDGING DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL DIVERSITY

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

5th Annual Diversity Abroad
Conference

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DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL
DIVERSITY

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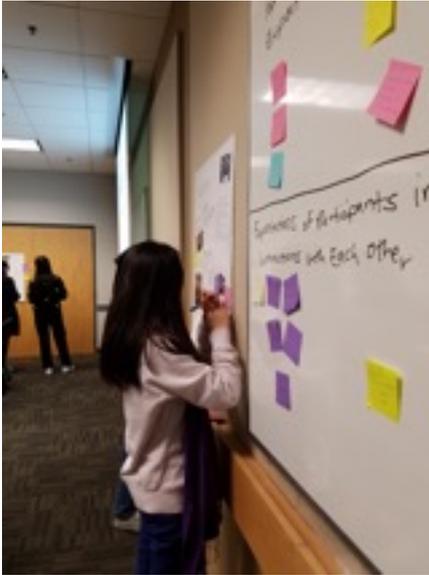
What is the Bridge Program?

- Bridging Domestic and Global Diversity is a leadership training program at the University of Iowa designed to help students understand and effectively adapt to and interact with cultural differences.
- It introduces students to concepts of identity, inclusion, and intercultural communication while focusing on issues pertinent to our campus.
- The semester-long program is open to undergrad and grad, international and domestic students. About 25 students are selected through a competitive application process.



Nearly two dozen University of Iowa students received certificates for completing the Bridging Domestic and Global Diversity Program in May 2016.

Students Participating in the Bridge Will:



Bridge students participate in values and identity exercises early in the program.

- Explore their own personal cultural backgrounds and understand how it effects interactions with others.
- Demonstrate understanding of culture and how to navigate differences and cross-cultural conflicts.
- Explain dimensions of diversity, power and privilege, and why it is important to be a change agent.
- Experience building effective cross-cultural relationships and working in a multicultural group-setting.
- Facilitate a program to educate the campus community about intercultural issues pertinent to our institution.

What Content is Covered?

- Defining culture and concepts
- In-depth examination of power and privilege, high focus on self-awareness
- Activities such as In/Out of the Box, Values Orientations, GLOBE Leadership Styles, “Where I am From” poem
- Use of sound assessments such as Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) and Intercultural Conflict Style Inventory
- Planning and conducting the culminating event, the campus Bridge Open Forum



Students participate in an activity to examine their values about core concepts, such as whether they believe social relation structures are best if hierarchical, collateral, or individual.

Why Do Students Participate?

- Great résumé builder: Engage in intercultural training that will be applicable to their roles as student leaders, as well as future careers in the diverse workforce of the 21st century. Participants receive a certificate verifying involvement and achievements from this program, and may receive letters of recommendation upon request.
- Opportunity for direct and in-depth discussions on subject matter that does not often come up in the typical classroom. Provides the right level of support and challenge so that participants can feel safe while experiencing personal growth by making “mistakes,” hearing others’ perspectives, and challenging their own beliefs and assumptions.
- Opportunities to make new friends and interact with others from a variety of different backgrounds that they may not otherwise cross paths with.



Bridge staff member Shuhui Lin, Support and Retention Coordinator, with International Student and Scholar Services, with program graduate Yuhao

Chen.

Who Facilitates the Bridge?



Bridge staff include Senior Advisor Rudia Kihura and Assistant Director Bob Gutwein from International Student and Scholar Services.

- Staff from International Student and Scholar Services along with staff and faculty across campus, including the Center for Diversity and Enrichment/ Chief Diversity Office, College of Nursing, College of Education, University Counseling Services, Center for Student Involvement and Leadership
- All have significant backgrounds and trainings in intercultural development
- Students from past years volunteer to serve as mentors for new students

Origins of the Bridge Program

- Running over a decade
- Seed grant helped get it rolling
- Initially smaller scale with one workshop, then grew to a few, before becoming a semester-long weekly program every spring
- Arose out of issues where many international students, particularly those coming from fairly homogeneous cultures, were unprepared to deal with wide diversity experienced in U.S.; reverse was true for many domestic students
- Complements other intercultural programming on the University of Iowa campus, including programs targeting staff and faculty





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I THANK YOU!