# Community Discussion Series
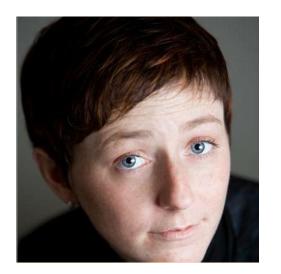
Intersecting Internationalism:
Amplifying the Voices of International
Students in Diversity & Inclusion
Initiatives

diversityabroad

International Student
Task Force 2019-2020
#DiversityAbroad

# Presenters

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# Session Overview

- Disclaimers
    - What to Expect in this Discussion
- Context
    - Differences and Similarities in International and Diversity Offices
- Case Studies
    - Initiatives, Impacts, and Challenges of International Student Engagement
- Q&A
    - Further Discussion
- Shared resources

# Disclaimers

Today's conversation will not be all encompassing.

Our language and our perspectives will be biased.

We hope to crowdsource the knowledge of those connected to the conversation!

# COMPONENTS AND PERCEPTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL AND DIVERSITY OFFICES

| INTERNATIONAL OFFICE | DIVERSITY/MULTICULTURAL OFFICE |
|---|---|
| **EXTERNAL FOCUS** mobility of students, faculty/staff in and out of the country, overseas institutional partnerships | **INTERNAL FOCUS** on diversity and inclusion within the campus community |
| **ROOTS FROM POST-WORLD WAR II** and Cold War era; academic origins in Area Studies and International Relations | **ROOTS FROM EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL REFORM** movements from the 1960s and '70s; academic |
| **INTERNATIONAL FRAME:** Promotion of peace and cultural understanding across borders | **DOMESTIC FRAME:** Promotion of tolerance and the elimination of social oppression within the United States |
| **PERCEPTION OF PRIVILEGE:** Students served by international office perceived as affluent and privileged | **PERCEPTION OF MARGINALIZATION:** Students served by diversity office perceived as marginalized and at risk |

## SHARED CHALLENGES

- Perceived disconnect from core university
- Offices are in silos and narrowly defined
- Mission and goals not always well understood by greater campus community
- High risk to budget, and staff cuts during resource allocation

Source: Collaborative Leadership: Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Comprehensive Internationalization in Higher Education by Bell, Donahue, & Gordon

# Dartmouth College - Chosen Name & Identity

- Strategic staffing and partnerships increase support

  Office of Pluralism and Leadership
  Office of Visa and Immigration Services
  Undergraduate Deans Office

- Dartmouth now enables students to use a chosen name, gender identity, and pronoun where possible in the course of their education

- The new policy directly benefits international students who wish to make adjustments to their name as it appears in their student file, plus those who use an English name or nickname.

- Campus partners work collaboratively to provide information and support to help students navigate the process

- Updates shared across departments for increased effectiveness in advising and student services/support

# University of Connecticut - Global House



**Mission:** Global House explores international relations through cultural immersion via a half domestic, half international student community. Students enhance students' global awareness and perspectives while strengthening their cultural identities through active, peer-led, and collaborative learning experiences held domestically and internationally.

# Peer Led Mentorship Program

## Northeastern University– Diversity and Inclusion Efforts

## Northeastern University- Global Student Mentor Program

- Asian American Center
- Catholic Center
- Center for Intercultural Engagement
- Center for Spirituality, Dialogue, and Service
- John D. O'Bryant African American Institute
- Latinx Student Cultural Center
- LGBTQA Resource Center
- Northeastern Hillel
- Office of Global Services
- Social Justice Resource Center

- Create community and safe spaces for diverse students.
- Engage diverse students in leadership building and community building activities.

Run by Office of Global Services

"The mission of the Office of Global Services' Global Student Mentor Program is to support incoming international students as they transition to college life at Northeastern and to the culture of the United States, to foster engagement with the Northeastern community, and to improve resource utilization."
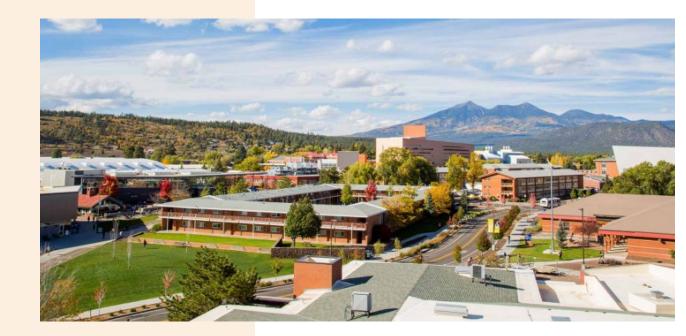
- Global Student mentor program - https://international.northeastern.edu/ogs/campus-resource/global-student-mentor-program/
- Diversity at NU: https://www.northeastern.edu/admissions/student-life/diversity-at-northeastern/

# Northern Arizona University - iFriends

**International Friends Program:**
**Run by ISSS in Center for International Education**

- One-on-One Social & Cultural Exchange
- Close collaboration with study abroad and language departments (success with STEM abroad programs)
- Future goals: student involvement in a leadership style, more collaboration with DEI Office

Virtual potential? Pen/Virtual Pal, Language Exchange, Discussion-Based Club

# Questions & Discussion

**1** How does your Diversity Office work with your International Office initiatives?

**2** On your campuses, how are international students reflected in your (global) diversity plans?

**3** What challenges has your university faced?

**4** How might these programs be adapted?

# Resources

**General Resources:**

- Enhancing the Quality of International Student Experience

- The Center for Global Education, Innovative International Student Support Programming List

- Journal of International Students

- International Students and Experiences with Race in the U.S

- Fostering a Climate of Inclusion and Belonging

- International Students' Sense of Belonging - Locality, Relationships, and Power

- Collaborative Leadership: Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Comprehensive Internationalization in Higher Education

**Other initiatives/examples that integrate international students with domestic students:**

- Columbia College's Mentoring Initiative (CMI)

- Northern Arizona University's International Friends Program

- Macalester College's America Program

**Examples of building a supportive website for International Students:**

- UCLA Counseling & Psychological Services Center

- LGBTQI+ resources: University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Timely Resource:**

- COVID 19 Forum from Diversity Abroad

# What's Next?

- Full Recording of Community Discussion

  - Will be added to Resource Center for Members

- PowerPoint Presentation Sent to All Participants

- Next Webinar: It Starts at Home: Best Practices in Developing Inclusive Study abroad Programming on Your Campus

  May 7 | 2-3 PM EST

**Diversity Abroad**
# ONLINE COMMUNITY FORUMS

Let's continue the conversation!

## COMMUNITY FORUM TOPICS:

- **Strategy and Communications** (ex. Student Data and Profile, Strategy and Leadership, Communication and Partnerships)

- **Operations** (ex. Organizational Operations, Professional Development and Staffing, Assessment and Evaluation)

- **Academics and Student Success** (ex. Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities, Advising and Student Support)

- **Health, Safety, and Security**

- **General** (Open Discussion)

Diversity Abroad members are invited to post questions and share promising practices today!

**DiversityNetwork.org/CommunityForums**

# Contact Us



Diversity Abroad

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