

Community Discussion

*Cultivating Community:
Bridging Gaps and Building
Belonging for International
Students on Campus*



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COMMUNITY OF
PRACTICE ISSS
2023-24

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January 5, 2024*

LONDON, UK
MARCH 13-15, 2024

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Presenters



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WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BUILD BELONGING FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ON OUR CAMPUSES?

1 Positive social interactions with peers from the host university can encourage psychological well-being and cultural adjustment adjustment of international college students.

Julia Rivas et al., Western Kentucky University

2 “Belonging feels good, improves student retention rates and supports other EDI efforts.”

Joanna West, Univ of Luxembourg

3 Students are more likely to persist if they connect socially and academically at that institution

Tinto’s Theory of Student Development, 1975

St. Mary's/ Wittenberg Univ

San Antonio, Texas

Enrollment: 3432

International student: about 6%

Private-Non Profit

Both F-1 and J-1

My office oversaw all international students (exchange, degree seeking, J-1, etc.) And IEP and Study Abroad.



Springfield, Ohio

Enrollment: 1258

International student: about 1%

Private-Non Profit

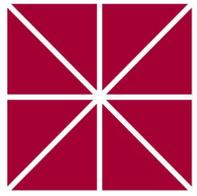
Only F-1

My office oversees all international students (exchange, degree-seeking, Fulbright FLTA). And SA.

St. Mary's/ Wittenberg Univ



- Students attend regular orientation with an ISSS session (before everything was separate)
- Events in collaboration with: Student success center, TRIO, student life
 - Excursions:
 - Broadway shows
 - Paint the stress away
- Early arrival and orientation
- New and current student Luncheon
- IEW events
 - International Cookbook
 - international fair
- Hoping to:
 - collaborate with other departments
 - student success
 - career services
- Collaborate currently with Modern Languages



CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

- Orange, CA
- ~8,500 enrollment (5% international students)
- Private, Non-profit
- 10-20 Exchange students per semester
- Separate ISS Office for degree-seeking students





CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY



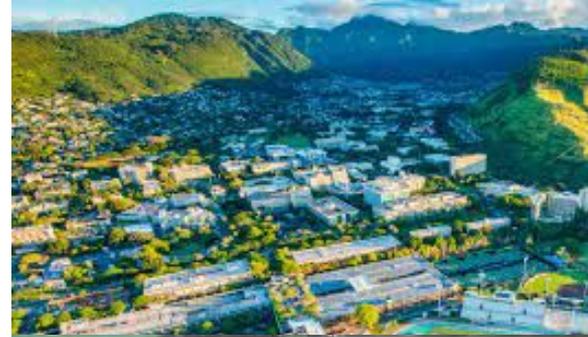
- Orientation & Field Trip
- Student Involvement Fair
- Career Fair
- WhatsApp
- Exchange Newsletter
- Surveys





University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

- Honolulu, HI
- Flagship campus of the 10 campuses in the UH system
- Public, Research I (land, sea, space, & sun-grant)
- 19,000+ students, 7% international students
- Strives to be the leading indigenous-serving institution
- Office of Global Engagement





University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

- Pre-enrollment webinars, advising, and communication
- Orientation and beach day welcome
- Aloha Ambassador Program
- Introduction to indigenous culture



What's Next?

- Find ways to collaborate with other on campus partners to help with your efforts.
- Think of one or two initiatives a semester.
- Engage in activities that highlight your campus.

Contact Us



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Diversity Abroad

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