

A Global/Local Roundtable Discussion University of Maryland Baltimore December 2015

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Purpose

- Initial assessment of how educational experiences in a local setting can prepare faculty and students for successfully engaging in an international setting, and vice versa.
- Identify transformative themes and practices that might be common to local AND international student experiences (service, clinical, and experiential).

Methods

- CBEL Fellows and Global grantee faculty met separately in small groups to discuss a series of targeted questions (45 min).
- Next faculty met jointly in small groups to review respective outcomes, identify those that overlapped and those that were unique to the local or international setting.



Questions included:

- How do you prepare students to enter the community from a process perspective and what has proven successful/less successful?
- What key strategies made the student experiences work or not work?
- To what extent do you attribute the strategies you used to the context/location of the project?
- What do you recommend for developing future projects in the same setting?

Results (1)

- Both groups identified relatively similar strategies for preparing/supporting students including:
 - Student assumptions about the experience
 - Team building
 - Time to design/facilitate partnerships with host communities
 - Need for faculty to model desired behaviors
 - Value of debriefs and journaling throughout the project
 - Individual student issues

Results (2)

- Differences related to **how** the strategies were managed not the strategies themselves.
- Students engaged in international learning are screened/chosen whereas local experiences are often required and there is no student selection/match involved.



What We Learned

- Students face similar issues, are taught separately, and have so much to learn from each other.
- Separate training demonstrates and perpetuates the global/local divide.
- Faculty are seeking opportunities to bridge this divide.

How to Begin to Bridge the Divide?

- Additional joint coursework/projects
- Local/global/local experience continuum
- Foster relationships across global and local groups
- Let the students lead the way!!

