APRU: International Exchanges Unbound

Leadership - Becoming a Global Learner series

Kimberly Bellows, MA – Intercultural Programs Coordinator
Janice Tse, MA – Intercultural Programs Coordinator
Overview – Planning Process

• Marketing
  • Internal newsletters, APRU

• Incentive
  • Signed certificate of completion (digital)

• Planning
  • Time differences, language for participants (accessibility)
Overview – Becoming a Global Learner

• Structure
  • Canvas access
  • 5 synchronous modules, 1.5 hours each
  • Small cohort of about 20 students
  • Discussions in small groups and in large group
  • Interactive activities

• Modules
  • Introduction to culture
  • Culture and values
  • Culture and identity
  • Tools for growth in intercultural learning
  • Conflict and culture
Data – What did students think?

• Weekly surveys and an end-of-program survey

• End-of-program survey had 20 respondents (20 students participated in 3 or more sessions)

• Overwhelmingly positive response:
  • All respondents "Strongly Agreed" or "Agreed" with the statement: "I found this program valuable and would recommend it to my friends and colleagues"

• Out of the five sessions, 10 respondents ranked Tools for Growth and Intercultural Learning as the most useful session
Data – What did students think?

- Quotes from respondents:
  - "Being equipped with **practical skills** through the reflection activities and tools, and the frameworks for conflict is really valuable to me because I have understanding of a situation as well as **ability and knowledge to affect future outcomes** too"
  - "The **activity** of eliciting our initial responses to the photos made me more aware of the certain biases or lens which I might have in viewing norms from other cultures and **taught me to be more open minded and reflective.**"
  - "I will remember the way **everyone wanted to share** and the amazing experience and broadening of personal understanding from hearing international perspectives on a similar issue - **I loved hearing other peoples reflections** and it reinforces how important it is to just ask and listen if you want to know other cultures. I also loved the 4 point cycle for growth of experience, reflection and analysis and implementation"
  - "It would be great if the **discussions with other students could be longer** or if there was a possibility to set up informal in between session meetings."
Follow-up

• Invited students to join an email list serv that we created
• They created their own Whatsapp group on the last day!
• We would like to offer this series again next year