

“Educating for Global Competency in the Co-Curriculum”

University Life Symposium

January 11, 2013

Responses from session participants:

What is Global Competency?

- Respect differences
- Understand own privilege and disadvantage
- Able to find other’s strength
- Leadership skills in diverse settings
- The ability to function (if not enjoy) being in a situation where there is more than one way to get to the other side
- The recognition that sometimes you are “the other”
- Understanding of different cultures and being respectful of them
- An understanding of the people and the world around you near and far
- Providing students the tools and skills necessary to engage in a multicultural environment with a positive contribution
- Recognizing that other cultures exist and being respectful of them
- Understanding and appreciating differences related to language, cultures, ethnicity as it relates to non-westerners. Also understanding the interconnectedness of global systems (economics, public policies, education, etc)
- The ability to not only function across our various cultures, but also understands and appreciates them.
- Awareness of other cultures , respect of other cultures
- Transferable skills easy to move – worldwide
- To have an understanding that there are people, outside of your immediate circle in the U.S and other countries, those are different from you. The ability to at least engage in those differences to find common ground.
- Intercultural awareness and acceptance
- Interconnectedness, relationships, engagement
- A sufficient level of knowledge about cultures and societies beyond one’s own to understand difference, yet grounded in the knowledge that is always more to know!
- Students wanting to seek out friends/peers with international backgrounds. GMU: Having the housing facilities to meet global students needs (i.e. kitchens, central spaces)
- Knowledge, skills, and attitude to communicate effectively with people of different, diverse cultures
- Ability to successfully interact with individuals, groups and societies all over the world (different cultures, perspective etc)

- Understanding how others learn, process, share in an academic setting and meeting and where they are
- Respect for all people of all walks of life
- Awareness of current trends, issues: impacts emerging internationally; Celebration of culture; Appreciation for others' experiences
- Ability to think, understand and act with great understanding and appreciation for global sensitivity and curiosity.
- Knowledge and experience of the issues that take place all around the world. The ability to compete in the global world.

Why do we want Mason students to be globally competent?

- To bring new perspectives.
- Global engagement is unavoidable.
- We live in a very connected society, we want our students to be tolerant/accepting--which makes them MARKETABLE.
- Because the world's population and cultures are not homogeneous. Also because as people living in a more globalized society, students will have to interact with people of diverse backgrounds.
- To become scholars of the world and learn from and understand what is going on across the globe.
- To be a well informed citizen, remain competitive in a global market and be able to appreciate differences, communicate effectively.
- Our students need these skills to be successful employees in today's marketplace.
- To better navigate and understand the impact of other societies, groups. To understand the "system" of global/international societies.
- Need for understanding of interconnected nature of world today. We're a Village.
- They will be more likely to have a positive impact on the world if they understand global cultures and are able to think beyond themselves to care about the world as a whole (not just selfish interests).
- To be able to compete in the global market. Gain experience and exposure to strengthen the nation's economy. Changing the world we live in. Knowledge is power!
- To be a global citizen to be successful in their career goals. To be able to work with diverse populations.
- We are sending students out into a wider world than the one they know, that is shrinking every day. Contact with other cultures is/will be unavoidable.
- Increasing global economy, understanding of other cultures.
- Our increased understanding that our world is interdependent and interconnected, and the necessity to know how to live/act in that context.

Ideas for Programs that Promote Global Competency:

- Events (café maybe) within the Residence Halls. Bring opportunity to our on-campus students. Continued training for staff and student leaders around global competency
- International talent show
- Collaboration between OHRL conduct + OIPS re: policy (on campus/off campus)
- Could international students teach a cooking class for domestic students? Rogers and White Top Residence Halls have great locations/kitchens
- A faculty/staff “certificate program” but less advanced, increase Global Proficiency