Collaboration Central: Tools to Build Strong Connections with Campus Partners

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- International Advisor at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO for 3.5 years
- Background in mental health and Masters in Adult & Higher Education
- From midwest - Illinois (Chicagoland area)
- Internship in Rome, Italy with CISA abroad and Comforts of Home
Learning Objectives

1. Effectively communicate with departments, as well as develop a solid partnership.

1. Explain to campus partners the challenges that international students must go through to study in the U.S.
Approx. 3,000 international students and scholars

66,000 students total

Popular degrees: Engineering, Computer Science, Hospitality
Approx. 400 international students

6,000 students total

Popular degrees: Business, Computer Science, Accounting
What campus partners do you work with frequently?
Frequent Campus Partner Interactions

- Athletics
- Residence Life
- **Counseling & Health Center**
- School Department Chairs
- Academic Advisors
- Center for Diversity & Inclusion
- **Career Services/Experiential Learning**
- Human Resources/ Employment & Taxation

- Student Life/ Student Union
- Study Abroad (if separate office)
- Admissions (if separate office)
- **Financial Aid/ Student Accounts**
- Information Technology
- Writing Center
- Campus Police
- Student Conduct & Title IX
- Registrar
How We Develop the Partnership

- Relationship is different with each campus partner
- Find **point of contact** in department
- Introduction email and schedule a time to meet with point of contact/department before “crisis” happens
- Check-ins every 6 months or once a year
  - New staff, high turnover, forgetful of international student regulations
  - Join a staff meeting: explain which regulations pertain to that point of contact/department
- Workshops:
  - “Journey of an International Student”
  - Acirema: [Kent State University](https://www.kent.edu)
How We Develop the Partnership

- Contact partner before referring student to that department
- Giving student direct contact information for partner to avoid miscommunication.
- Be open to learning more about the department.
- Join university committees to:
  - Advocate for international students
  - Get to know campus partners better
Create a Solid Partnership

- Meet with partner outside of case issues.
- Invite partner to international events.
- Give support to that department.
- Attend partner’s department events.
- Provide international student resources to partner.
  - Examples:
    - Attend a football game if you work closely with a coach/ASSA for an international student. Let the coach and the student know you will be there in support. Post on social media.
    - Develop workshops geared specifically for intl students in partnership with campus partners (ex. How to secure an Internship as an Intl’ Student)
    - Provide international student documentation for counseling center/ health center (LewerMark - Morneau Shepell)
Advocacy vs Student Development

- Know how to walk the line:
  - Could the student become out of status and possibly deported? Is the situation serious?
  - Will it better develop student’s professional skills by providing contact information to the student rather than contacting the department for the student?
  - Who is the “expert” in the situation?
  - Expectation from partners to refer all international student issues to Global Office.
What are some strategies your institution has created to develop partnerships?

What challenges and advantages do you see with school size in developing campus partnerships?
Challenges and Advantages with Institution Size

Large School (UCF)

Challenges:
- Decentralized Departments (operates in silos)
- Turnover/Promotions
- Lack of knowledge of international student experience
- Bureaucracy

Advantages:
- Access to Resources
- Increased exposure to international populations based on enrollment

Small School (Truman)

Challenges:
- Reputation across campus
- Closer relationships (Ex: Police, Counseling)
- Lack of knowledge of international student experience
- Lack of prior exposure to international community
- Expectation to cater to students (Ex: VPN access, Early move-in)

Advantages:
- Greater likelihood of interaction
- Bureaucracy
- Can build close relationships with partners
Questions and comments about presentation?

Share experiences with campus partner relationships.
Thank you!

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Presentation evaluation:

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