Building Cultural Bridges through Campus-Wide Events

NAFSA Tri-Regional (Regions I, II, IV)
Monday, November 6, 2017

Presented by the Office of International Programs, The University of Kansas Medical Center

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Why are you interested in this topic?
Why are programs and events important?
“...When I read about clashes around the world – political clashes, economic clashes, cultural clashes – I am reminded that it is within our power to build a bridge to be crossed. Even if my neighbor doesn’t understand my religion or understand my politics, he can understand my story. If he can understand my story, then he’s never too far from me. It is always within my power to build a bridge...”

--excerpt from the foreword of Paulo Coelho’s The Alchemist.
Building Cultural Bridges: Why is it Important?

• Education is not just about a degree
• Universities are responsible for developing “global citizenship”
  • “We need to understand and empathize with persons who differ dramatically in terms of national origin, ethnicity, and religious or spiritual orientation as well as in terms of race, gender, and sexual orientation. Thus, each of us needs to develop a global perspective.”
  • Empathy
  • Cultural humility
  • Exposure
  • Information

• We have a responsibility to our own domestic community but also our internationals
• The J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa is a “cultural and educational exchange”
  • “The J-1 Exchange Visitor Program provides opportunities for around 300,000 foreign visitors from 200 countries and territories per year to experience U.S. society and culture and engage with Americans.”
  [https://j1visa.state.gov/basics/facts-and-figures/](https://j1visa.state.gov/basics/facts-and-figures/)
  • Culture Plan as part of the DS-2019 request form
Building Cultural Bridges:
What does your current programming look like?
What are your greatest challenges?
Building Cultural Bridges: Challenges

• Our greatest challenges:
  • Resources – money, people, time
  • Events/ Ideas – what to do?
  • Publicity and Attendance
  • Organizing
  • Set up/IT
  • Assessments
• How many of you think that KUMC OIP has a huge budget because it is a medical center?

• In 2013, we had an operating budget of $9,000 from the state of Kansas. This money was supposed to cover:
  • For FedEx/DHL
  • For conferences
  • Office supplies
  • For webinars and training
  • Programming was not important

• In 2017, the $9,000 was not allocated
Building Cultural Bridges: Bridging the Resource Challenge

Use your most valuable resource: your people.

What people?
Everyone.

Our KUMC community...our faculty, staff, residents, students;
Our Internationals...visitors, observers, students, researchers, scholars, doctors;
Our Kansas City community...refugees, immigrants, visitors, experts;
"The essence of intercultural education is the acquisition of empathy—the ability to see the world as others see it, and to allow for the possibility that others may see something we have failed to see, or may see it more accurately."

(From The Price of Empire)

• Leverage our most valuable resource –
  • PEOPLE: use their knowledge and experiences
    • Focus on CONTENT AREA KNOWLEDGE, not culture specifically
    • Culture Hour – share situations, develop awareness of self and cultural humility
  • Global Connections – connect people to each other
    • Interns with Juntos
    • Researchers and scholars
    • Internationals students
    • Connect community with visiting groups from China, India, Romania, Zambia, Ghana...where ever they come from and when they come!
  • Presentations
  • Social/cultural events
  • Holiday celebrations
“Educational exchange can turn nations into people, contributing as no other form of communication can to the humanizing of international relations. Man's capacity for decent behavior seems to vary directly with his perception of others as individual humans with human motives and feelings...”

Building Cultural Bridges: Bridging the Resource Challenge

• Departments and Campus Organizations
  • EVC Diversity and Inclusion Cabinet
  • Student Life
  • KUMCIO
  • Indian Association of KUMC
  • Chinese Student and Scholar Association
  • Taiwanese Student Group

• Community Services
  • Commerce Bank
  • T-Mobile
  • Bordeau Immigration Law LLC

• Community Groups and Churches
  • International Relations Council (IRC), People to People International
  • JVS, Rotary International, International Students Incorporated
    • Friendship Partners
    • Friday social, Welcome Back Picnic, Fall Square Dance,
    • Thanksgiving Celebration, Christmas Party
Building Cultural Bridges: Bridging Challenges with Predictable Patterns

- Predictable events/programming
- Predictable format
- Predictable publicity
- Predictable planning and organizing
- Predictable times
- Predictable location
- Predictable food
Predictable Programming: Signature Programs

The Culture Hour

A Casual Forum for Students, Faculty, and Staff Insights, Questions, and Concerns about Culture

Beginning August 24, 2017
Every Thursday (except holidays)
Come On: 12:00-12:45
Bring a lunch/ Lite Refreshments served.
Please feel free to come late or leave early as your schedule allows.
This is an informal discussion group.

For more information:
Alexa Smith 588-2747 or ashim@ku.edu

• Culture Hour: An Informal Discussion about Culture
  • Every Thursday
  • Noon
  • Same location for 4 years
Predictable Programming: Signature Programs

• Clinical Culture and Diversity
  • Quarterly
  • noon
  • The 3rd Tuesday of the month
  • Same location for 3 years
Predictable Programming: Signature Programs

• International Education Week
  • A week of events in November
  • Noon
  • Same events year to year
  • Same locations
Predictable Programming: Signature Programs

• Special Presentations
  • Short-term visitors and observers
  • Tuesdays
  • Noon or Late afternoon

• Receptions
  • Thursdays
  • Early evening
Predictable Programming: Student Meet and Greets

- Scheduled student meetings
  - Short-term visitors and observers, KUMC faculty with IEE opportunities
  - Casual Conversation
  - Wednesdays
  - Noon
Building Cultural Bridges: Bridging Challenges with Predictable Publicity

• Predictable fliers
  • Branding
  • How they look -- Same flier for same event always
  • Where they are posted
  • Save-the-Dates

• Postcard size invitations
  • Student events
  • Attach candy
  • Put in bookstore
  • Give to individuals to invite hosting department

• Facebook
• University communications
• Emails
Building Cultural Bridges: Bridging Challenges with Predictable Format, Planning and Organizing

• **Predictable Planning and Organizing**
  - Collaborate with others on certain events yearly
  - **Predictable time** – noon, evening
  - **Predictable day** –
    - Tuesdays – presentations
    - Thursdays – receptions
    - Fridays – Health and Safety

• **Predictable location** – auditorium for presentations, conference room for weekly event, etc.
  - We schedule events and location the summer before

• **Predictable food** – *If you feed them, they will come.*
  - Free!! Never charge.
  - Health Center (no dorm or food plans) so NOON and free lunch
  - How to pay? Use community resources – Commerce Bank, T-Mobile, ISI International
  - fees
Building Cultural Bridges:
Lessons Learned and Successes

• Lessons Learned
  • Friday evening movie
  • Assessments

• SUCCESSES
  • Events from 2012 to 2017
  • Collaborations
  • Assessments
Building Cultural Bridges:
Our Events and Programming for 2016-2017

OIP Sponsored

• Culture Hour (40)
• Modale Meet n’ Greet
• Modale Presentations
• International Education Week
  • Diwali
  • Poster Presentations
  • Immigration Matters
  • Epidemics
  • Global Fair
• International Meet ‘n Greet
• Spring IEE Poster Presentations (2)
• Kovac Award Presentation
• Dr. Alfred Aidoo
• Zambian Health Care and Pencil Goals with Dr. Menda
• Chinese New Year
• Taiwanese Culture Movie
• Special Program Receptions
• Executive Order Community Conversation
• Health and Safety Meeting (11)
• Visa Presentations
• International Scholarship and Fellowship Advising Sessions
• Webinars (3)

In Collaboration with Others:

• International Relations Council (IRC) Events
• Webinars
• Clinical Culture and Diversity Series
• Spotlight on CAICHE: Native Voices Rising Up
• Black History Month – Hidden Figures
• SINO-US Professional Health Care Exchange Program
• KUMCIO Silent Auction
• Refugee Forum
• Diversity and Inclusion Cabinet Symposium

KU
Office of International Programs
The University of Kansas Medical Center
Building Cultural Bridges:
Our Events and Programming for 2016-2017
Building Cultural Bridges: Assessing Programming and Events

The Zambian Health Care System

Thank you for attending our event!

We would greatly appreciate you filling in the following to help our event assessment:

1. What did you like best about the event?

2. How did you feel you engaged with the topic?

3. What is your gender identity?

4. What is your sexual orientation?

5. What is your race?

6. What was your age?

7. What did you learn from the event?

8. Did you attend the event because of interest in the topic?

9. What was the most interesting part of the event?

10. How did the event change your ideas about the topic?

11. What did you think about the event overall?

12. Would you attend another event like this in the future?

The Zambian Health Care System
“...It is always within my power to build a bridge. There is always a chance for reconciliation, a chance that one day he and I will sit around a table together and put an end to our history of clashes. And on this day, he will me his story and I will tell him mine.”

- Excerpt from the foreword of Paulo Coelho’s The Alchemist
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KU Medical Center Office of International Programs   @kumcoip
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3. Click the “Evaluation” icon at the bottom of the screen.
4. Answer the questions that appear on the screen.
5. Your response is complete!