

Developing and Implementing a Global Education Program in an Urban University

Marshall Zumberg

Wayne State University Special Education, United States
m.zumberg@wayne.edu

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Abstract. Wayne State University is a large American urban university located in mid town of Detroit Michigan. The University is comprised of non traditional students. At least 80% of the students commute to campus by automobile and are first time university attendees from their families. Most of the students work in the community and rely on government and private sources for funding their college education. Half of the students enroll for 50% or less of their planned program each semester. Only about 40 % of the students graduate in 6 years and 50% graduate in 10 years. The university is extremely diverse. The average age of the student is 26 with more females than males. Despite these demographic factors, a global education program was established within the College of Education.

Developing and implementing a global education program was extremely difficult. To counter act the demographics of the university, The College of Education developed short term study abroad programs at the undergraduate and graduate level. Individual opportunities rather than group programs were initiated. Of particular interest was the 2 week international student teaching program. To facilitate a broader base of participation Memoranda of Agreements were initiated and signed between international universities and the College of Education. The student body of the College of Education is being internationalized by a large number of international students on campus and first generation students particularly from the mideast and asia.

This presentation will discuss the development and initiation of various components of the student and faculty global education program. Time will be allowed for discussion, questions and answers after the initial presentation.