Innovations in Inclusion and Access for Latinx Students in Study Abroad

Resources from the Department of State’s IDEAS Program
Poll: What type of institution do you come from? (Select one)

• Hispanic-serving institution (HSI)
• Minority-serving institution in another category (HBCU, TCU, AANAPISI, etc.)
• Predominantly-white institution (PWI)
• Other (feel free to share your institution type in the chat box)
Speakers

Rebecca Gailey, IDEAS Program Officer, USA Study Abroad, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Laurie Melin, Director of Internationalization and Inter-University Relations at Universidad del Sagrado Corazón

Scott Pierson, Senior International Officer at the University of Wisconsin-Stout

Julie Whitlow, Assistant Provost for Global Engagement at Salem State University
IDEAS Program

A program of the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, USA Study Abroad branch

Seeking to expand higher education institutions’ capacity to grow and diversify study abroad programs for U.S. students

• Increase number of students studying abroad from underrepresented groups
• Increasing the number of U.S. higher education institutions offering study abroad programs
• Expanding study abroad to new overseas destinations, particularly those that are less common

Grant Competition

• Approx. 20 grants of up to $35,000

Capacity Building Initiatives

• Virtual and in-person, open to everyone

StudyAbroadCapacityBuilding.org
IDEAS Program 2021
Study Abroad Needs Assessment

Top personal barriers to students studying abroad

- 95% Cost/personal financial limitations or responsibilities
- 66% Family or work obligations
- 61% Lack of awareness of study abroad options
- 55% Lack of family support or understanding

Unique challenges for MSIs
- Not enough programs
- Lack of destination diversity
- Family/work obligations
- Need additional support for outreach and recruitment

Consistently high interest in expanding programming to Latin America

#1 requested training topic: Recruiting and supporting students from under-represented groups

44%
Latinx College Students

22% of U.S. undergrads

11% of study abroad students

93% increase in HSIs 2010-2020

67% of all Latinx students attended HSIs in the 2018/2019 academic year
The Impact of COVID-19

3x more COVID-19 cases in Latinx community

Latinx representation at U.S. colleges and universities fell by 5.4%

- 26.4% fewer high school graduates from schools with a high percentage of Black and Latinx students went directly to college in 2020, compared with 2019.
- Students at high schools with more than 75% Latinx enrollment submitted 20,750 fewer FAFSA forms in the 2021-22 school year.
Poll: What is the top strategy your institution is currently using to engage Latinx students in study abroad?

- Resource development in English
- Resource development in Spanish
- Recruiting diverse faculty/administrator leaders
- Virtual/COIL opportunities
- Cultural heritage-based programs
- Family outreach
- Student campus group outreach
- My institution is not specifically engaging Latinx students at this time
- Other (feel free to share your initiatives in the chat box)
Universidad del Sagrado Corazon
Developing Targeted Resources and Outreach

- Identified need for time and personnel to create:
  - Good quality Spanish-language resources (text and video)
  - Targeted study abroad sessions for students, faculty, staff, and families
- IDEAS grant funds
  - Two part-time personnel
  - Commitment of on-campus partners
- Results in 14 months
  - Resources (access them [here](#)): 
    - 8 short videos for Hispanic students and their families
    - 4 informational flyers for Hispanic students, 4 informational flyers for their families
- Outreach:
  - 98 events, 27 media mentions, 11 new documents/policies
University of Wisconsin-Stout
Heritage-Based Faculty-Led Program Series

- Flipped script – students determine destination and faculty leaders
- Involve faculty/staff who share same heritage to lead program
- Latin America, Asia, and Africa identified for Years 1-3
- COVID-19 impact: postponements, modifications, and need for flexibility
- Institutional support
  - Scholarships – raised over $85k in additional Foundation funds
Salem State University
A Multi-Pronged Approach

- Expand outreach to Latinx students; translated materials; family outreach
- COIL expansion in general education course and Healthcare Studies (26% Latinx)
- Faculty-led trip in Global Health internship
- Emerging HSI

Latinx student population growth

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Latinx Student Pop. Growth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17-18</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<td>18-19</td>
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<td>19-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-21</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>23%</td>
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6-yr Graduation Rates

- All students
- Latinx students

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>All Students</th>
<th>Latinx Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17-18</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-21</td>
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<td>59%</td>
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<td>21</td>
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Discussion
FUTURE IDEAS PROGRAM INITIATIVES

- FY21 Grant Competition
- Webinars
- Workshops
StudyAbroadCapacityBuilding.org

IDEAS@worldlearning.org
#LaunchIDEASAbroad

*The IDEAS (Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students) Program, formerly known as the Capacity Building Program for U.S. Study Abroad, is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by World Learning.