

## **Online Intercultural Education and Training for Study Abroad Engagement**

P.I. #1: Dr. Jennifer Wade-Berg  
*Department of Social Work & Human Services*  
*Wellstar College of Health & Human Services*

P.I. #2: Dr. Vanessa Slinger-Friedman  
*Department of Geography and Anthropology*  
*College of Humanities & Social Science*

P.I. #3: Dr. Vanessa Robinson-Dooley  
*Department of Social Work & Human Services*  
*Wellstar College of Health & Human Services*

P.I. #4: Dr. Debra Coffey  
*Department of Elementary & Early Childhood Ed Bagwell College of Education*

KSU's long-term commitment in global learning and internationalization is reflected in its choice of the theme Global Learning for Engaged Citizenship for its quality enhancement program (QEP) as part of the accreditation process. A key feature of the QEP is the high impact practice of Study Abroad. The Institute for International Education ranked KSU eighth among masters level U.S. institutions for student participation in study abroad in which 700 - 900 students partake yearly. The main goal is for students to have enriching educational and cultural experiences while abroad, and to reap and share the benefits of their experiences upon return. Sometimes this goal is not achieved as students head to their host countries ill-prepared, become increasingly overwhelmed, and don't fully utilize their experience once home. Ideally students should be provided with consistent training and information that prepares them properly and ensures they gain a deeper understanding of their worldview and can use the experience abroad to broaden their perspective and opportunities. This ideal calls for an intentional course design focused on student intercultural competence before, during, and after the trip; while simultaneously leaving program organizers enough flexibility to integrate course-specific content. This proposal creates such a model.

Our rationale is to work collaboratively across a diverse group of KSU stakeholders, and scholars in the field to develop a set of intercultural competence educational curriculum for study abroad programs in the form of 15-online modules focused in three categories: pre-departure, in-country, and post experience learning. To accomplish this, we envision working within an existing need and framework identified by KSU's Division of Global Affairs to produce high quality, modular-based content that can be used either in a synchronous or asynchronous pace. Further, these modules could be integrated to produce a 1- 3 course credit option for students. To ensure organizational consistency and content rigor, all online content will be reviewed by nationally acclaimed study abroad and intercultural competence (ICC) experts and modular design will follow the standards set forth by Quality Matters (QM). Additionally, with KSU library support, these courses will be accompanied by an online clearing house of resources that will be accessible through LibGuides technology. Accompanying this work, will be a regional symposium that brings together thought leaders to conduct TEDx talks on these topics and stakeholders to exchange knowledge. Learning from this symposium will be integrated into

the module design and recorded for future use.