

Best Practices for Integrating and Engaging International Undergraduate Students

CASNR Faculty Advisory Council

3/16/2017

In collaboration with the IANR Global Engagement Office and the CASNR Dean's Office, the CASNR Faculty Advisory Council offers the following recommendations and best practices for the successful integration and engagement of international students:

- Consider creating assigned small groups that include a mixture of international students and domestic students
- Encourage domestic students to invite international students to participate in campus activities
- Consider serving as a faculty mentor to the Rwandan student program (UNL CUSP program) or to the 3+1 Chinese student program offered through the Food Science department
- Host international students at your home for dinner or find other faculty members or members of the Lincoln community outside of UNL who would be willing to host international students for dinner or for a weekend activity
- Create a summer experiential learning opportunity or secure internship-type experiences for international student cohorts, like those in the Rwandan and Chinese student programs
- Invite CASNR/IANR Global Engagement to provide a presentation to departmental faculty. Contact Jon Kerrigan at jon.kerrigan@unl.edu to set up a presentation that will meet the unique needs of departmental faculty.
- Most importantly, remember that integration and engagement won't happen organically—Integration and engagement are the result of intentional effort

As always, CASNR faculty, staff, and administrators share a united commitment to diversity and inclusion:

UNL's core values and beliefs states "Our commitment to diversity and inclusion requires each of us to continuously ensure our interactions be respectful, protect free speech and inspire academic freedom committed to diversity and inclusivity". In his last IANR all hands meeting, Vice Chancellor Boehm stressed the importance of bringing together our differences to positively impact the world. As faculty and staff in CASNR, we have a responsibility to encourage positive civic engagement, and help our students develop into effective citizens that treat each other with respect. The question is how? In a recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education, the authors of a book entitled "Citizenship Across the Curriculum" identify traits that post-secondary educators can emphasize in their teaching in this regard. These include having a multidisciplinary knowledge-base, ability to empathize with others' situations and perspectives, and a willingness and ability to participate in political processes.

We have a responsibility and an opportunity to expand our course learning outcomes beyond our subject matter content. While the content may not always seem aligned, there are a number of pedagogical approaches that provide multiple pathways to learning and opportunities for our students to develop cross-cultural competence and prepare them to be global problem-solvers and innovators. The power of inclusion lies in how we as educators embrace diversity and incorporate inclusive pedagogical approaches to enrich the learning environment for all learners. The way we educate is as important as what we teach as we mentor our students to become what they will be.

As part of our on-going commitment to support faculty and staff who teach and mentor our students, the CASNR Dean's Office has provided each unit with the copy of "Citizenship Across the Curriculum" which provides examples from various disciplines.