

Abstract: Best Practices for Integrating Cultural Exchanges in the Curriculum: Challenges for General Education Faculty

Faculty cultural exchanges to less-traveled countries in South Asia enrich the participating institutions' academic environments, enhance their research capabilities, and contribute to their global reputation. For participating faculty, they foster knowledge exchange, research collaboration, cultural diversity, and institutional networking. The exchanges can also be a chance to challenge assumptions and build bridges for faculty and their students alike. But demanding course goals and outcomes and the time constraints of a semester prevent even the most well-meaning faculty from applying the knowledge gained abroad to their teaching practice. Democratic methods such as discussion boards are one way to culturally and globally enhance one's curriculum using one's experiences as a source of information. But are there other more creative ways to turn faculty cultural exchange experiences into meaningful teaching and learning opportunities for undergraduate students? Six faculty members, four from U.S. Community Colleges and one from a Pakistan college recently participated in a cultural exchange to each other's countries. This Roundtable will engage the participants in a discussion on how faculty can integrate faculty cultural exchanges into their curriculum — lectures and class activities. This Roundtable will encourage an interdisciplinary and intercultural conversation on how to incorporate travel experience outcomes across disciplines and transnational institutions with a focus on U.S. and Pakistan.