

DAC Newsletter:

Internationalizing the Curriculum

One of the findings from the 2014 Diversity Climate Survey was that a majority of respondents thought the campus climate is negative for foreign nationals and those for whom English is not their first language. With this in mind — and given that the College is making efforts to recruit more international students in the years to come — DAC has made it one of its priorities to support our international students, faculty, staff and administrators. In the upcoming year, we hope to offer workshops and develop materials that speak to this issue, and work with COTFD and our EEOC Officer to provide mentoring, raise awareness, and create a welcoming environment for international members of our community.



In this week's Newsletter, **Michele Paludi, Equal Opportunity and Employee Relations Specialist/Title IX Coordinator/ADA & Section 504 Coordinator**, reflects on her own research and efforts in internationalizing curricula and teaching pedagogy. Dr. Paludi is one of our most recent hires at Siena College, and she has already made huge strides in her efforts to help us create a welcoming, inclusive, and respectful campus environment. As a committee, we look forward to working closely with her, and other individuals and offices around campus, in the hope to recruit, support and retain an international student body, faculty, and staff.

"During this last year I have been integrating the research in the fields of multiculturalism, internationalizing curricula and teaching pedagogy in developing training programs for faculty on ways to internationalize their courses. I have focused the first stage of this work for psychology departments. Psychology education must be institutionalized to reflect the research around the world, to address global issues and build global competence in the next generations of psychologists. In addition, internationalizing the curriculum is not just about the content of the course, it also demands changes in pedagogy to encourage our students to use critical thinking in psychology and other courses. Goals of internationalizing courses includes: broadmindedness, understanding, respect and empathy for people, their culture and ways of life, understanding racism and understanding the intersectionality of racism and sexism. I have developed training programs for faculty that provide them with the tools necessary for institutionalizing their courses, including readings, exam questions, audio-visual material, guest speakers, and case studies. My work follows the Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles for Psychologists, including: respect for the dignity of persons and peoples, competent caring for the wellbeing of persons and peoples, integrity and professional and scientific responsibilities to society."