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Rebuilding a Sustainable International Internship Program in Asia After Covid-19

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Introductions: Who We Are











Why? Why was There a Need to Rebuild After Covid-19





Impact of Covid-19 on Saint Michael's College

- What happened to College internationalization during Covid-19?
 - Disappearance of international activity (although virtual internships)
 - Closure of renowned Applied Linguistics Program
 - Collapse in social capital and campus interaction
 - Decline in enrollment especially international students
- Response?
 - Strategic planning internationalization
 - Center for Global Engagement
 - Freeman Program, Donors and DOE Grant





Impact on Workforce After Pandemic

According to Perdue global 5 business skills needed:

- adaptability
- communication
- empathy
- strategic vision
- technological competence

For those 5 skills, going abroad for study or internships is a great idea for the students to build into academic career





What? What is a "Sustainable" International Internship Program





I. Strategic Priority for College: Comprehensive Internationalization Post-Covid

- Internationalization should be a strategic pillar of any vision for Saint Michaels to remain a relevant and responsible educational institution in post-COVID-19 world
- Global citizenship and literacy and inter-cultural competency and inclusion are universally recognized as crucial liberal arts educational and institutional learning outcomes
- A majority of nationally regarded colleges and universities have made internationalization and global citizenship central part of strategic plans over the past two decades
- Peoples, cultures, businesses, governments and non-profit organizations including educational institutions are increasingly globally interdependent
- Internationalization initiatives promise to be revenue generating for the College when the regional demographics demand more aggressive marketing and recruitment





Center for Global Engagement at Saint Michael's College

Mission

Serve as the collaborative hub of international activity at Saint Michael's College, promoting global learning and literacy, deepening inter-cultural competency and inclusion, and supporting opportunities for global engagement for students, faculty, staff, alumni and local community members.

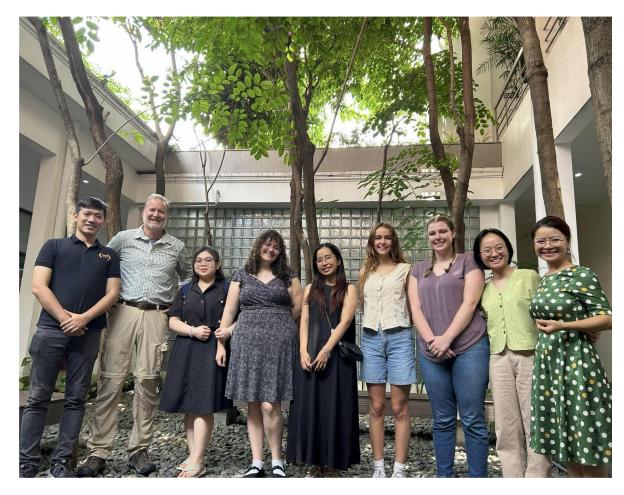






II. Sustainable Life-Long Learning Outcomes

- Global Awareness and Inter-Cultural Competency
- Humane and Empathetic Connection
- Resilience, Independence and Adaptability
- Professional Workplace Etiquette







III. Sustainable Educational Practices

- Double High Impact Practice (HIPS)
- Retention and Graduation Increase
- Scaffolding acquisition of global competencies
- Active learning practices that promote deep learning through engagement in internships and inter-cultural immersion
- HIPS are educational purposeful activities that increase the likelihood of students achieving desired learning outcomes (Buck 2020)





Kuh (2008) Six Elements of High Impact Practices

- Effortful, Include feedback, Apply learning, Prompt reflection, Build relationships, Engage across differences
- Keller (2012) Internships done well: requirement commitment, connect the classroom to career, facilitate good communication, provide a sense of community
- Keller (2012) Internship outcomes: develop competencies of students, produce career-related crystallization, build self-confidence and generate social capital





International Internship Ideal HIP

• Study abroad is under Diversity/Global Learning as method that allows students to "explore cultures, life experiences, and worldviews different from their own" as well as "difficult differences such as racial, ethnic, and gender inequality or continuing struggles around the globe for human rights, freedom and power"

American Association of Colleges and Universities





International Internship: Key to Enriching Study Abroad Programs

- Internships help study abroad experiences move from students traveling and touring to becoming high impact practice that allows students to critically interact with the world in a way that expands their worldviews and increases their intercultural competence
- Intentionally designed experiences to include key practices identified as being integral to a well-done HIP





IV. Sustainable Finances

- Freeman Foundation Grant
- U.S. Department of Education Congressional Directed Spending Grant (Senator Leahy)
- Politi Family Endowment
- Class of '72 Gift to CGE







V. Sustainable Partnerships

- Building off history of working with WorldStrides/TEAN for study abroad
- Spring semester in-person and virtual meetings with students
- Annual on-site visits to Vietnam and South Korea







VI. Sustainable International Internship Program

- University's strategy
- Students' outcomes
- Financial resources
- International partners





How? How Does the Internship Placement Process Work?













Questions and Discussion

- How does the onsite staff help students connect with internship site?
- How do onsite teams assess the needs of the local community and balance needs of both parties?
- How do we shape a sustainable partnership with domestic partners (how orient students)?
- What characteristics do students have for going to Vietnam or South Korea?
- What are host organizational voices when accepting international interns?









