



‘Diversity Talks’ Dives Deep into Global Learning, Campus Internationalization

Listen to the latest episode of the Diversity Talks podcast “International Education, Diversity, and Inclusion: Opening the Window to the World” featuring Dr. Steve McDowell, Assistant Provost of International Initiatives at FSU, John H. Phipps Professor of Communication, and Associate Dean for the College of Communication and Information.

McDowell speaks about the goals and benefits of international education and global learning and what we can do to ensure that it is a part of every student’s college experience. He also discusses diversity and inclusion as it relates to international students, what it means to internationalize a university campus, and all of the exciting international initiatives FSU offers.

“The understanding of respect for people, understanding of other cultures, the elements that make up for a strong approach to diversity, equity and inclusion are also the elements that make for a good approach for internationalization,” McDowell said. “... I think that’s one area of diversity, equity, inclusion ... ‘Who are we serving, in terms of the students?’ Considering the role of international students is also important because they bring, through their personal experience and their relationships with people on campus, windows into the world that you can’t get in a textbook, or just in a video, so you get to know people and build relationships. And that’s hard even if we’re sharing the same space, it’s hard to build those relationships.”

Acknowledging the crucial role of the CGE, McDowell said, “One of the [departments] on campus that does a great job with that is the Center for Global Engagement, that has a whole bunch of different programs, like the International Coffee Hour, to facilitate the building of relationships between students from the United States and countries around the world. So, I think domestic inclusion in our programs, thinking about international students, and I think perspectives that we have in our research questions/in our research are another important part of diversity that includes international.”

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CGE Student Spotlight

Damian Rodriguez-Ledesma

Global Citizenship Certificate Student
Bachelor's in Public Health

Damian Rodriguez-Ledesma, FSU junior studying public health and current Global Citizenship Certificate (GCC) student, found that his experience in the program's foundational course, Global Perspectives, has deeply enriched his experience volunteering with Paper Airplanes.

Paper Airplanes is a nonprofit organization matching conflict-affected individuals with personal English tutors for 12-16 week sessions over video conferencing platforms.



Students enrolled in the Global Citizenship Certificate program take a total of four academic courses (Global Perspectives and three electives), attend eight intercultural events, and complete a sustained intercultural experience. Rodriguez-Ledesma is fulfilling his requirement through Paper Airplanes, a non-profit organization that matched conflict-afflicted individuals with personal tutors in order to gain knowledge and practice the English language.

Rodriguez-Ledesma reflects on the concepts he has already applied from Global Perspectives to his experiences in Paper Airplanes. "Although I am an immigrant, I have been raised in the United States and have therefore adopted a very American way of understanding culture," he said. "By eliminating ethnocentric perceptions that other cultural groups do things the 'wrong' way rather than a 'different' way has expanded my worldview by making me able to sustain more effective methods of intercultural communication as well as maintain intercultural relationships," he said.

The Global Citizenship Certificate program allows FSU students to expand their knowledge about how to navigate today's highly globalized society while developing vital intercultural skills. "I have been able to focus more on maintaining international relationships with my colleagues, friends, and associates who hail from one, aiding in the process of becoming a better Global Citizen," Rodriguez-Ledesma said.

[Read More](#)

Programs & Highlights

Virtual International Coffee Hour*



Every Friday
5 – 6:30 p.m. | Zoom

Attend International Coffee Hour every Friday to learn about new cultures and how to make different dishes as CGE's Chef Jesse or representatives from Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) give us a live cooking demonstration.

Then move into Zoom rooms to connect in conversation in smaller groups. To join us, please sign up using the link below once to receive a weekly email with the Zoom link and login instructions.

If you are interested in co-hosting as an international student and featuring your home country/culture during ICH this fall, you can submit a request [here](#).

[Register for Zoom Link](#)

Meditation Monday



Every Monday
12 – 12:30 p.m.

Join the Center for Global Engagement for a virtual 20-minute guided meditation. Sign up for the weekly Zoom link below.

[Register for Zoom Link](#)

Zoom-In Advising for International Students



Monday – Friday
2 – 4 p.m. | Zoom

Our Zoom-In Advising for International Students replaces our normal walk-in advising hours. No appointments are necessary. International Student Advisors are available for quick 5-10 minute questions between 2 – 4 p.m. Monday – Friday by clicking the link below!

And as always, please remember to communicate with your advisor via email for any questions you have outside of these hours.

[Click Here](#)

Virtual English Conversation Club



Monday – Friday | 4 – 5 p.m.
Tuesdays & Thursdays | 9 – 10 a.m.
ECC will continue until Friday, April 16

Join us for English Conversation Club Monday – Friday from 4–5 p.m. or Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9–10 a.m. on Zoom. Virtual English Conversation Club offers you the opportunity to practice your conversational English individually with a native English-speaking FSU student. Please sign up using the link below once to receive a daily email with the Zoom link and login instructions.

[Register for Zoom Link](#)

More Virtual Intercultural Events*



Find information about all of the CGE's current virtual programs as well as other virtual intercultural learning opportunities and events at the link below.

cge.fsu.edu/connect

FSU Global Events

For a full list of FSU's events with a global focus, [check out this full calendar of events](#) or visit global.fsu.edu.



FSU's Global Citizenship Certificate prepares undergraduate students to succeed in a diverse and multicultural world. Students take four academic courses (choose from a list of 500+ approved liberal studies courses), attend 8 intercultural events, and completed a sustained experience.

An asterisk (*) is used to denote which events qualify as an intercultural event toward the Global Citizenship Certificate. For more information, click below.

cge.fsu.edu/globalcitizen

Global Citizenship Certificate Events*

Center for Global Engagement

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