MSU’s Changing Classroom: Challenges and Best Practices for the Academic Success of International Students

Lilly Teaching Seminar

Tuesday, April 22 | 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. | Kellogg Center, Lincoln Room
Registration at 8:30 a.m.; program begins at 9:00 a.m. (Lunch will be served)

Keynote Speaker:
Bridget Fletcher, Assistant Director of Student Services, Duke University

Moderators:
Peter Briggs, Director, Office for International Students and Scholars, MSU
William Donohue, Member, University Committee on Faculty Affairs; Distinguished Professor, Communication, College of Communication Arts and Sciences, MSU

Presenters:
Patricia Croom, Associate Director, MSU Office of Admissions
Doug Estry, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Office of the Provost, MSU
Lynn Lammers, Artistic Coordinator, Transforming Theatre Ensemble, Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives, MSU
Guofang Li, Associate Professor, Teacher Education, College of Education, MSU
Patricia Walters, Associate Director, English Language Center, College of Arts and Letters, MSU
Geri Alumit Zeldes, Associate Professor, Journalism, College of Communication Arts and Sciences, MSU

Faculty Panel:
Gabriel Ording, Associate Professor, Entomology; Director, Center for Integrative Studies in General Sciences, MSU
John (Xuefeng) Jiang, Associate Professor, Accounting and Information Systems, MSU
Xiaobo Tan, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, MSU
Cheryl Caesar, Assistant Professor, Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures, MSU

Register at: fod.msu.edu/changingclassroom
Like many American higher education institutions generally and our CIC peers specifically, MSU is experiencing a large increase in international students, primarily but not exclusively, undergraduates from China. During 2013, the MSU University Committee on Faculty Affairs (UCFA) was asked to survey MSU instructors about their experiences with international students to identify the perceived benefits and challenges of teaching international students as well as suggestions for maximizing their educational experiences. A total of 1,224 survey responses were received—with results indicating that over 65% of respondents indicated that they are eager to learn more about how they can support their international students.

This program has been designed to respond to the issues and interests raised by this study. Although the discussion of each of these topics may apply broadly to international students from many countries and regions, the primary focus of this program will be on supporting undergraduate students from China who represent the largest group among our international students.

Participants in this workshop will explore the following topics:

- The context in American higher education and at MSU for increases in international students, particularly Chinese undergraduates;
- The goals and benefits of internationalization;
- Intercultural factors that influence the experience of international students and effective communications between and among instructors and students;
- Academic and pedagogical challenges, opportunities, and promising practices, including results of surveys sponsored by the UCFA and the English Language Center at MSU;
- Practical approaches for addressing issues of language, curricula, teaching methods, assignment design, assessments, academic integrity, classroom management, classroom participation, and help-seeking;
- The perspectives of MSU international and domestic students in the documentary “Imported from China,” produced by MSU faculty Geri Alumit Zeldes and Troy Hale;
- Promising practices from MSU faculty and support staff who teach and interact with international students;
- Relevant MSU policies, support units, resources and next steps.

Co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, the University Committee on Faculty Affairs (UCFA), the Office for International Studies and Programs, the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives, and F&OD.