

Webinar #1, Spring Semester 2018:

What's Empathy Got to Do with It? Lessons Learned in Helping Faculty and Staff Facilitate Intercultural Development

Katherine Yngve and Florence Adibu

Friday January 26, 2018, 1-2 pm Eastern time

Beginning in 2014, Purdue University began to operationalize a new university-wide core curriculum which required that the learning outcome of “intercultural effectiveness” be embedded in all of its undergraduate degree programs. This requirement was based on a shared understanding of intercultural competence as a metaphorical tool-kit encompassing six interpersonal bridging aptitudes, which can arguably be strengthened, like muscles, through intentional practice. Specifically, these six aptitudes are: Curiosity; Openness; Communication; Self-Awareness; Other-Awareness; and Empathy.

In this webinar, two Purdue employees will discuss lessons learned on the road to helping faculty and staff (most of them from STEM disciplines) use the concepts above to become more effective intercultural mentors for Purdue undergraduates, in both study abroad milieus and on-campus contexts. They will cite open-source teaching and assessment resources, discuss aptitude-specific interventions and the quantified results of faculty training, and demonstrate ways of creating a shared culture of evidence-based intercultural learning, which bridges across an institution’s internal silos.



Learning Outcomes: Participants will have opportunities to:

- Identify how the six building blocks “stack up” to lead to behavioral intercultural competence;
- Consider a developmental model of “Empathy”;
- Encounter ways to frame Empathy as a key component of career success (even for STEM majors); and
- Discover “open source” resources for teaching faculty and students to “level up” these building block competencies.

About the Presenters

Katherine Yngve, a “recovering” Senior International Officer, now co-directs Purdue’s new Center for Intercultural Learning, Mentoring, Assessment and Research (CILMAR). As a fulltime assessment professional for Purdue, she specializes in scaling up evidence-based intercultural learning both on-campus and abroad, and supports the use of over 20 validated instruments, many of them free. In 2017 alone she provided intercultural pedagogy training to over 120 Purdue faculty and staff. Prior to Purdue, Katherine founded

the first Office of International Programs at the American University of Beirut, often considered the #1 research university in the Arab world. As a doctoral student under Dr. R. Michael Paige, immediately prior to Beirut, she was one of the first cohort of instructors to operationalize on-line intercultural mentoring for semester-abroad students; this experience led to the creation of intercultural pedagogy workshops for Purdue faculty in 2016. Her MA is from the University of Chicago and her BA from Indiana University.

Florence Adibu, who hails from Larteh, Ghana and was raised in Chicago, Illinois, is an Intercultural Learning Specialist at Purdue University's Center for Intercultural Learning, Mentorship, Assessment and Research (CILMAR). She convenes the Purdue Intercultural Learning Community of Practice, serves as a Qualified Administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), and brings an intersectionality approach to creating innovative and intentional intercultural learning opportunities for faculty, staff, and students. Prior to joining Purdue, Florence worked at School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she taught Art Activism, Black Feminist Aesthetics and Comparative Race Politics (US and Brazil). Florence earned her BA in International Studies and Sociology from Spelman College, her Masters in Teaching English as a Foreign Language from Beijing University and her MA, in African American Studies with a specialization in Latin America and Gender and Sexuality studies, from Northwestern University.