

Rise, Teach, Learn - Season 3 Episode 6

Global Engagement Opportunities for Faculty

00:03

We acknowledge and are mindful that CSU Chico stands on lands that were originally occupied by the first people of this area, the Mechoopda, and we recognize their distinctive spiritual relationship with this land and the waters that run through campus. We are humbled that our campus resides upon sacred lands that once sustained the Mechoopda people for centuries.

00:28

Welcome to the Rise, Teach, Learn Podcast. I am Dr. Chiara Ferrari, Director of Faculty Development at Chico State, and we are happy to make this resource available to our campus community and beyond. The podcast is hosted by Dr. Jamie Linn Gunderson and she will engage in timely conversations with faculty, staff, and students and give you a taste of the Chico experience. Subscribe to our podcast and explore the many resources available on our website. Thank you for listening.

00:59

Hello, and welcome to Rise Teach Learn. I am your host Jamie Gunderson. In this episode, we will explore global engagement opportunities for faculty, staff and students. And we will hear about resources and support for learners who are interested in engaging in global learning and teaching. I'd like to welcome this episode's guest Dr. Jennifer Gruber, Associate Vice President of International Education and Global Engagement, a senior international officer and a COIL co-coordinator. I'd also like to welcome Dr. Sara Trechter, a professor in the Department of English and a COIL co-coordinator and Dr. Chunyan Echo Song, professor in the Sociology department and chair of the International Faculty and Staff Association. Thank you, Jennifer, Sara, and Chunyan for being here. Jennifer, I'd like to start with you. Can you share the mission of International Education and Global Engagement and provide an overview of the services through that department?

02:00

Absolutely. Thanks, Jamie. Well, I think most folks know but civic and global engagement is one of the three strategic priorities of the university. The mission and programs supported by International Education and Global Engagement puts this strategic priority, and honestly the intersection of the other strategic priorities of equity, diversity, inclusion, and sustainable and resilient systems into practice. Our mission in international education global engagement is to bring the world to Chico State and to facilitate global engagement and high impact learning opportunities for all campus community members. We are committed to educating the next generation of global citizens and supporting our faculty, students and staff in international education and mobility, learning about languages and cultures, curriculum and campus internationalization, and supporting collaborative projects and research with partners around the world. Some of the IEGE sub units include Study Abroad and Exchange, International Student and Scholar Services, International Admissions and Outreach. The passport place located in IEGE where campus and community members can submit their applications

for a US passport. We oversee international training programs, which provides professional training to international visitors in a range of fields related to global issues in education. ESL support services, which provides ESL Tutoring to non-native speakers of English. And of course, collaborative online international learning which I know Dr. Trechter will speak to in a minute.

03:24

Because this podcast is used to support our Chico State faculty, I want to talk about the global learning opportunities for our faculty, including teaching and conducting research abroad and ways that they can support our students in study abroad and global learning. First, I just want to give a quick shout out to our campus. I'm pleased to announce that Chico State has recently been named a Fulbright leader among Hispanic Serving Institutions, only 35 institutions in the country were awarded this designation in the first year. We were also just named a Fulbright top producing institution for US scholars and abroad in 2021-22. What the Fulbright US scholar program does is offers over 400 awards in more than 130 countries for US citizens to teach, conduct research and carry out professional projects around the world. Chico State faculty engaged in Fulbright opportunities this past year included: Jesse Dizard from the Department of Anthropology who taught abroad as a visiting professor in Jordan, Lee Altier from College of Agriculture, who participated as a visiting professor in Turkey, and Brian Brazeal also from the Department of Anthropology, who traveled to Sri Lanka to conduct research this semester. Fulbright is now accepting applications for the 2023-24 cycle and the application deadline is in September. I highly encourage our faculty to apply for Fulbright opportunities. Chico State faculty can also take students abroad on traveling Chico State classrooms by submitting proposals for faculty-led study abroad. We have two Chico State faculty members leading group programs to Italy this summer of 2022. Also, through CSU international programs our faculty can apply to become a resident director on a CSU international program in France, Italy or Spain for an academic year, the deadline to apply is in December. And lastly, I encourage our faculty to consider hosting visiting international scholars in your academic departments. Please contact our office for more information on any of these opportunities.

05:18

Thank you, Jennifer. Sarah, I am personally really interested in expanding my pedagogy and collaboration. Can you tell me more about the global opportunities for faculty provided through COIL?

05:31

Yes, I can! Collaborative Online International Learning, just to give you a little background started about 15 years ago. And I would say in about 2018, I started hearing about it from our exchange partners across the world. And so, one of the things we decided to do is, once COVID hit and our students had limited opportunities to go abroad, we really started focusing more on collaborative online international learning. So basically, what it is it's coming out of the SUNY system. And it's where you partner, people in a couple of courses. It can be across time, across place, and across even disciplines. So, for instance, a course in the United States and California with a course in a university in Amsterdam. And usually, these collaborations are four to eight weeks long. And they include icebreaker activities, a collaborative task for the students to do in small groups, and then also reflections on what they're doing so that they can think about how they've incorporated new ideas and new ways of thinking in approaching a problem. So most of the student collaborations are asynchronous in small groups as part of a larger task. And we've done a lot of these so far, in anthropology and nursing, in international

business, and many institutions across the world are focusing on the UN Sustainable Development Goals because it gives institutions a way to connect and to solve or work on a problem or have their students solve or work on a problem together. These particular collaborations can be within a face to face course in an online course or in a hybrid course. But it really involves the students getting together outside of the course not in the course itself necessarily, to do work together. Since we started in 2020, in the summer, we have had a lot of opportunity to expand the faculty learning communities that we support through international education and global engagement. Because internationalization is a strategic priority of the university, we have applied for grants to support a faculty learning community every semester. And so far, we've had 24 faculty participants since last spring. So in three semesters, we've had 24 faculty participants in our faculty learning community, 17 of those faculty have launched 24 COIL course projects, serving over 1000 students. So, in three semesters, this has really expanded. Within the faculty learning community, what we provide is a connection to SUNY COIL training materials, a brief course through SUNY, that is really pretty easy and not stressful at all. And we also offer partnering opportunities and support to help faculty at CSU Chico find partners abroad. We do this through partnering fairs, partnering bulletins. We advertise people's courses and what they're interested in doing. And even sometimes the US State Department will reach out to individual institutions and say we would like to create a partnering opportunity for COIL with a specific country. And so for instance, right now, we are working on partnering with the Ukraine. I just received a message this morning from a Ukrainian colleague in Western Ukraine who was still interested in partnering with us. So we are even in this difficult time pursuing that.

09:45

We also will sometimes use our current study abroad and exchange partners and say, Hey, we have a professor on our campus who's interested in a business course. Do you have someone there who might be willing to work with them. So we offer resources to faculty as well as partnering opportunities. And one of the things that has come out of this for us is that professors on our campus have begun to see what a rich opportunity this can be in terms of their own research. So the first semester that Keiko Goto in nutrition, created a COIL project for her course, she had a master's student in nutrition education, who researched the extent to which that course built communicative competence and global competence within the students at both institutions. They were working with USFQ in Quito, and the Ecuadorian students were working on projects, where they were coming up with new culinary recipes, basically, because they were in a culinary class and Keiko Goto students were working on nutrition information. And they created pamphlets based on the recipes that the students at the Culinary Institute were coming up with. So they worked in groups to do this. And Keiko's student, master student Haley West, studied the effects of this. And just recently, I think within the last week, we received notification that an article concerning this research - evaluation of a collaborative online international learning, a food product Analysis and Development Project - is going to be published. So research as part of the COIL project is just an additional benefit.

There are also several conferences because COIL is exploding across the world. There are several conferences across the world now that are annual, there's an international virtual exchange conference in Spain, that's coming up in October, and in June, there's a Latin American COIL Network Conference. Given all of the rich opportunities behind coil, CSU Chico is a leader. We were the first in the CSU system to do this, and about six other institutions have followed us. And more recently, the American

Council on Education has recognized our work and asked Jen to speak at one of their conferences about what we have established on our campus.

12:32

That's amazing, Sara, there's a lot to be proud of, and to celebrate at Chico State. I want to throw it to Chunyan Echo international faculty member on our campus. And I'm interested to hear her insights on her experience and the support she received from the international faculty and staff association, an association for which she is now the chair.

12:54

Yes, the International Faculty and Staff Association was founded in fall 2019. And right before the pandemic, so still relatively new, we have a lot of exciting things, you know, under the way. So first of all, I want to talk about the purpose and also the mission of international faculty staff association. So our goal is to develop a formalized network of international faculty and staff at Chico State. We support and encourage each other in both personal and professional development. We also advocate for addressing the needs for recruitment, hiring, retention, and advancement of international faculty and staff. In addition, we also mentor international students, study abroad students, and new professionals. There are a couple of ways to get involved. First of all, we have a web page listed under the Diversity Office website. And on that page, we have the membership survey, which you know, will ask a few simple questions and takes you about probably a few minutes to join. And we also have a Facebook group page. We also have a quarterly newsletter, so twice in spring and twice in the fall. Each newsletter we highlight international faculty and staff members. By the way, I also want to say that you can join even if you are not originally from abroad: anyone who has an international you know, interest in their research or their teaching can also join us. I would just want to share maybe a little bit personal experience to see how faculty and staff can actually benefit from joining IFSA to know other faculty and staff with international background. So back in 2019, I co led a faculty-led Research Study Abroad program to China and Thailand I collaborated with an anthropology professor, Dr. William Nitzky and also another sociology professor, Dr. Tony Waters. You know both of them have international teaching and research background in China and in Thailand, and both of them are very knowledgeable not only in what they teach but also people and places that actually can help us with the program. We also collaborated with two staff members on campus Pa Vue and Yer Thao. Both are members from APAC Asian Pacific Islander Council, and both Pa and Yer they're originally from Thailand, the refugee camps. And the two of them helped us to market the program to recruit students. And they also raised scholarship money to sponsor our student attendees. And during our program, and the two staff members also join us in Thailand for a week, they taught the class how to speak basic Hmong language. They also accompanied us to field trips in a Hmong village. And they help to translate when our students were in the field to conduct interviews. And so yeah, I would highly recommend anyone who has an international background or has an interest either in teaching or research in an international setting to join us at IFSA.

16:48

Thank you Chunyan Echo, I will make sure that all of the links for membership and also the link to order a t-shirt are available on our FDEV podcast web page. We've covered a lot of information today, but the

focus of this podcast centers on implementation So Jennifer, I'm gonna throw it back to you: How can faculty promote students to engage in global learning opportunities?

17:12

Faculty and staff are some of our greatest supporters. Faculty have the opportunity to invite study abroad and exchange team members into their classes or department meetings to present on our program options, and we can specifically tailor them to your majors or student interests. We also have wonderful International Student and Scholar advisors within IEGE who can assist faculty and supporting our international Wildcats on campus, should they have any questions or concerns, we have around 253 international students enrolled at Chico State this semester. Please also encourage your students to visit the campus English as a second language support services, which offers free tutoring services for non-native speakers of English who want to improve their English proficiency. ESL support services serves international students but also bilingual individuals born in the US and anyone else who identifies as a non-native speaker of English.

Chico State students can apply for our CSU Chico presidential recognition of global engagement. This recognition is given to students who have demonstrated achievement and language learning, cultural immersion, global perspectives, and cross-cultural learning and service. It's not competitive so all students who complete the requirements will receive the recognition and that's a great way to honor the curricular and non-curricular activities our students have engaged in globally. Lastly, I think it's important to remember that global learning and experiential opportunities are high-impact educational practices that greatly complement and intersect with our campus student success initiatives. Often, we hear from international and domestic students alike that faculty and staff on our campus greatly influenced their experience or decision to participate in study abroad, COIL, or engage in other global opportunities post-graduation, your support of our programs, students and services is so appreciated.

19:01

And there you have it, folks. Today we explored global engagement opportunities for faculty, staff and students. I'd like to thank our guests, doctors Jennifer Gruber, Sara Trechter, and Chunyan Echo Song for their contributions to this episode. I encourage you to check out the faculty and scholar resources page provided through International Education and Global Engagement. And don't forget that you can access previous episodes of Rise Teach Learn through our FDEV podcast webpage. A big thank you to you for listening and until next time, we got this Wildcats!