



2020 Best Practices International Student Program Symposium Sessions

Pre-Symposium

Move Your Program to Excellence [Dr. Brenda Vishanoff]

This session will focus on 4 key areas of international student programming: academics, social/ emotional adjustment, operations and program philosophies. Participants will consider how to move program components to the next level within their school contexts. Examples, strategies, and steps to implementation will be shared. Participants will also have designated time and strategies to collaborate with each other to gain more ideas and feedback. This session is geared to both the attendee who is just building a program or new their role as well as the experienced program director committed to continuous program improvement.

Constructing an ESL Program [Charity Moon]

During our pre-symposium session, we will focus on the foundational elements needed to construct a solid ESL class/ program. Our time together will be spent addressing the specific academic English needs of students and ways to create curriculum that seeks to support learning outcomes. The format of the session will be workshop oriented and provide time to evaluate your unique teaching situation and how to apply the principles you learn. Registrants will need to come prepared with some completed pre-session materials that will be provided ahead of time, as well as specific information regarding their teaching context.

Confirmed Sessions

Trade Wars, School Safety and the Coronavirus: Setting your International Program up for Safety, Sustainability, and Resilience [Dr. Brenda Vishanoff]

Various factors make on-going recruitment in China challenging and uncertain. This session will address some of these recent challenges and address how schools can build trust with parents in spite of these circumstances and even use these fears to build stronger relationships. Come prepared to ask questions and share your experiences with these situations. Participants will leave with practical ways to proactively strengthen partnerships with Chinese families and recruiting partners.

Equipping Your International Student Program with a Theology of Hospitality [Dr. Doug Williams]

Hospitality goes deeper than an attitude of tolerance or token diversity. It is a vulnerable extension of yourself to others, a sharing of time, resources, and an invitation to relationship. This session will better equip school leaders to support an International Student Program as an expression of Christian faith.

Home Away from Home: Engaging Host Families to Improve Student Success [Elizabeth Williams]

By creatively and intentionally engaging host families, schools have the opportunity to better minister to their international students, while boosting attendance, participation, achievement, overall satisfaction, and retention. This session will trace Lipscomb Academy's journey of implementing our homestay program, and it will equip school leaders and host families to partner together in mission.

Mix 'em Up! Integrating International & Domestic Students through a Comprehensive Ambassador Program

[Lorraine Hoffman]

Looking for ways to increase integration in your school community? This session will guide you in developing an intentional, relationship-building, student-led program connecting international and domestic students. Learn the practical steps for implementing this full-scope program, along with various creative ideas and opportunities to enrich cultural awareness, support, and integration in your school community and culture.

International Education Trends [Todd Beard]

This session will cover up-to-date market trends in international education. Topics will include sustainable student numbers, federal changes, recruitment waves, marketing and brand awareness, study state initiatives, working with agents, and partnerships with outside organizations or institutions.

Designing and Implementing Individualized Study Abroad Curriculum [Betsy Thomas]

This workshop will give participants hands on experience in creating an individualized and school specific study abroad curriculum. The presenter will walk the participants through the entire process of designing and implementing this curriculum from start to finish. Using research, personal experience, and global learning best practices, the participants will walk away with a foundation for their own study abroad curriculum that is tailored to their specific needs and opportunities.

-More to come!-