


What if you had
the chance to start
all over.....



Re-imagining study abroad in a community college setting

Presentation for NAFSA
May 2014

Who are we?

- Faculty and Staff from Portland Community College
 - Kendra Cawley, Dean of Academic Affairs,
 - Anne Haberkern, Director of Curriculum & Acting Coordinator of Education Abroad
 - David Stout, Division Dean of English and World Languages, Recovering German Professor
 - Sarah Bentley, Spanish faculty
 - Samantha Cooper, Study Abroad Advisor

Why are we here?

- In 2012 we had a Study Abroad “program” that was unsatisfying at best, and worrisome at worst.
- We undertook a process not to fix it, but to re-imagine what it could and should be for our institution.
- We thought that sharing our story, our process, would be interesting and maybe useful – as a set of ideas for other institutions adapt education programming to meet the needs of their student populations

Who are you?

- Community College, 4 year institution, Study Abroad Program Provider, Other?
- Faculty, Administration, Study Abroad Staff, Other?

Here is where we will go:

- Background – why we did it
- Process – how we went about it
- Recommendations to administration – what we came up with (thought this is not as important as the process)
- ~~How it has turned out~~
- How could this be useful for your institution?

Portland Community College

- Large multi-campus college – 4 comprehensive campuses
- Serving students in three counties
- Approx. 90,000 students (headcount), 60,000 are credit students
- Approx. 30,000 FTE
- 400 full-time and 1400 or so part-time faculty
- About 50% of instruction (enrollment) is in Lower Division Transfer
- About 30% is in Career Technical (50+ programs)
- The rest is Developmental Ed and non-credit
- Demographics are typical for CC: many 1st generation college, lower income, non-traditional students

PCC Study Abroad – Recent History

- Programs until 2012:
 - PCC-Oaxaca
 - PCC- Barcelona
 - Oregon International Education Consortium (OIEC)
2-4 per year
- 2012 Concerns
 - History of minimal infrastructure for evaluating programs
 - No clear plan for crisis response or communication
 - Lack of integration with PCC academic oversight structures (Subject Area Committees, Curriculum Committee)
 - Budget & oversight issues with consortium structure (for all members)
 - Some rogue programs

Because of these concerns...

- 2012-13: In-depth review of our programs
 - Standards of Good Practice from the Forum for Education Abroad
 - Significant gaps in our practice and programs
- Fortunately...
 - enrollments were small (and declining)

Study Abroad at PCC

PCC Study Abroad

ALL Programs 2010 - 2013

2010-2011	24
2011-2012	19
2012-2013	17

2010-2013 By Program

Florence-OIEC	11
Oaxaca-PCC	7
London-OIEC	5
Barcelona-UPF	10
Barcelona-OIEC	13
Costa Rica-PCC	14

Top Sending Peer CCs 2012

Miami-Dade College	190
College of Du Page	179
CC San Francisco	138
Orange Coast College	135
Kirkwood CC	133
Mesa CC	116
Santa Barbara CC	81
Valencia College	81
Fresno CC	80

And also....

- We knew we were not meeting the needs of our students
 - Despite heavy recruiting by both faculty and International Ed staff, extremely low enrollments
 - Few/no options for students looking for summer and/or for experiences abroad that were shorter than a term
 - Few/no options for students in Career Technical Programs

So we stopped.....

- Reviewed each program in detail and stopped offering the ones we found the most problematic.
- Began thinking about options to develop a strong Study Abroad Program that would better serve many more of our students.

And... we formed a task force!

CHARGE from the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs:

- Draft a vision and mission statement for PCC's Education Abroad Program (Standards of Good Practice).
- Recommend a structure for PCC's Education Abroad Program.
 - What type of programs, credit, risk management, criteria for recommending programs to college cabinet and board?

Guiding Principles/Goals the Group Developed

- Develop a model that will allow PCC to send the largest possible number of students abroad within the allotted budget.
- After establishing a solid foundation of successful student experiences, assess possibilities for other options.
- Review and assess programs and program models over next 5 years.

Work Group Basics

- Who was at the table?
 - Everybody we could think of who would care

Work Group Members

- Dean of Academic Affairs
- Education Abroad Advisor
- Academic Advising Specialist, Cascade
- Registrar
- Safety and Risk Manager
- Director of Curriculum & Acting Coordinator of Education Abroad
- Director of Nursing
- Business Administration Instructor, Rock Creek Campus
- Political Science Instructor, Cascade Campus
- Electrical Engineering Instructor, Sylvania Campus
- Spanish Instructor, Sylvania Campus
- Division Dean, English and World Languages, Sylvania Campus
- Division Dean, Liberal Arts and Pre-College Programs, Cascade Campus
- Dean of Student Development, Rock Creek Campus
- Dean of Instruction, Rock Creek Campus

Work Group Basics

- Who was at the table?
 - Everybody we could think of who would care
- Meeting Structure
 - Large group for background review of national trends, major issues, and big decisions (e.g., vision and mission)
 - Small Groups for specific topics – fed info to large group
- Summit held (y'all come) for consideration of how to make hard choices

Work Group Process

- To illustrate the Work Group process, we will now share some “behind the scenes” peeks at some of the different perspectives.....

Sarah Bentley, Spanish Faculty

updating all faculty in the World Languages
on the progress of this group

*“How dare anyone else try to act as if they
know anything about Study Abroad”*

Anne Haberkern, Acting Study Abroad Coordinator

talking with a faculty member who has led a Study
Abroad experience in a country under a travel warning

“Do you remember that severed head in a box in Oaxaca?”

Kendra Cawley, Dean of Academic Affairs

updating the Vice President of Academic and
Student Affairs about this group

“You don’t have to worry about ...”

Dave Stout, Dean, Division of English and World Languages

talking with some Deans for
Career Technical Programs

Welding in Wales!

Samantha Cooper,
Study Abroad Advisor
getting advice from my colleagues

“Whatever you do, don’t let faculty”

Education Abroad Recommendations

1. Continue to support PCC student participation in existing programs and future consortia options that we endorse and will work for some students.
2. Utilize existing dual enrollment agreement with Portland State University to provide PCC students access to PSU's Study Abroad programs
3. Focus development efforts on short-term (e.g. 2-6 week), PCC faculty-led courses abroad with logistics and on-site support handled by independent provider organizations.

Additional Recommendations

- Program selection committee
- Guidelines for faculty compensation options
- Critical elements of Risk Management
- Academic credit and instructor qualification requirements
- Ed Abroad staffing recommendations (three options, the more staff, the more students/programs)

What we liked about this process

- Gave us the chance to really think outside the box of “Junior year in Paris”
- Gave us a chance to thoughtfully consider all of the necessary elements in a systematic and transparent way, many of which had been lacking.
- Broad representation was consistent with PCC’s consensus-building culture.

Through this process, we came up with a plan that lets us

- Focus on the needs of a much wider variety of students
- Free faculty to focus on the learning experience rather than logistics
- Desire to engage more and different faculty, and spread the “wealth,” instead of a few who lead the same experience many times
- ***But most of all, open the world to many, many more of our students in ways that grow out of the learning they are already doing here at PCC.***



Discuss!

Discuss!