

International Programs Launches Inaugural Global Learning and Internationalization Institute

From May 16 to May 20, nineteen faculty members participated in the inaugural Global Learning and Internationalization Institute (GLII), organized by the Office of International Programs (OIP). This initiative was created to support faculty in developing goals for internationalizing their teaching and curriculum and in creating global learning experiences for all students. An important goal of GLII is for participants to engage in an ongoing community of practice to facilitate innovation and create best practices in international education on the UNC Charlotte campus.

According to Assistant Provost Joël Gallegos, “It is essential to provide our faculty with development opportunities and resources that support them in integrating global learning and intercultural competence considerations in their teaching and course design. UNC Charlotte is incredibly fortunate to have such engaged faculty committed to advancing the internationalization of their teaching, engagement and research.”



GLII faculty attendees cut across disciplines, representing the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Health and Human Services, the College of Arts + Architecture, Cato College of Education, and William States Lee College of Engineering. During GLII, the

participants engaged in a variety of interactive sessions delivered by experts at UNC Charlotte as well as exchange partner institutions: University of Kent at Canterbury in England, Stellenbosch University in South Africa and Universidad de Cantabria in Spain. Additional highlights included a presentation by Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development Rick Tankersley on *Internationalizing Your Research*, in which he provided an overview of strategies to develop an international research agenda.

Participants also heard from senior administrators from Academic Affairs on the *Career Value of Internationalization* by Provost Joan Lorden, CHHS Dean Catrine Tudor-Locke, COAA Dean Brook Muller, COED Dean Malcom Butler, and College of Engineering Dean Rob Keyton. The deans and provost underscored the importance of having faculty engage in international education activities, drawing parallels to their own careers, and confirmed the value of international initiatives on our campus.



GLII provided an opportunity for faculty participants to learn about key concepts such as internationalization, intercultural competency, and global learning ecosystem. They also explored various tools of curriculum internationalization which are provided by OIP, including Globally Networked Learning, faculty-led study abroad programs and related student learning outcomes.

In addition, participants also heard from faculty speakers with rich experiences in conducting internationally oriented teaching and research from both UNC Charlotte and Purdue University, an institution on the forefront of global learning. On the final day of GLII, participants presented their post-GLII implementation ideas and engaged in brainstorming sessions with both fellow participants and GLII organizers and peer experts.





A key component of the Institute was the participants' completion and a group debrief for the [Intercultural Development Inventory](#) (IDI), which provided valuable information on the group's development on the intercultural continuum. The first community of practice of GLII is slated to meet during the upcoming academic year with the support of OIP. OIP will offer the Institute on an annual basis.

According to the post-GLII evaluation, 100% of the surveyed participants agreed that they feel more empowered to conduct global learning and internationalization work as a result of this institute and would recommend GLII to a colleague. One of the participants shared that, "I thoroughly enjoyed this institute. It was a perfect balance of exploring the 'why' and the 'how' of global learning." Another participant shared that GLII "successfully created a community of innovative faculty who share the same passion," and expressed a desire for the institute to "grow into a committee to discuss various multicultural ventures."

Adriana Medina, Ph.D., associate professor of reading education, was instrumental in planning and implementing the inaugural GLII along with staff from the OIP. Medina's track record with OIP programs and enthusiasm for global education was a catalyst for bringing GLII to fruition.