

Discussion Guide

Episode 2: Dawn Whitehead on Connecting Global Learning Across Campus, Community, and Careers

About Global Learning

Global learning is the process of diverse people collaboratively analyzing and addressing complex problems that transcend borders (Landorf & Doscher, 2015). Among many student learning outcomes, global learning develops:

- **Global Awareness:** Knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems
- **Global Perspective:** Ability to conduct a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural problems
- **Global Engagement:** Willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving

About this Episode

Dawn Michelle Whitehead is Vice President of the Office of Global Citizenship for Campus, Community, and Careers at the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). Whitehead's work centers on integrative global learning with an emphasis on thematic local and international experiences that provide students with a variety of global learning opportunities across their educational experience. In this wide-ranging conversation Whitehead provides us with a broad view of the field of global learning. From her perspective, the process of global learning involves certain fundamentals—diverse perspectives, collaboration, complex problem solving, and local and global connection making. But Whitehead also says that campuses must make global learning their own—they must tailor their definition to their campus' unique context if they want to enable all faculty and all

students to engage in their own unique ways. What's more, Whitehead outlines the different ways various U.S. based international professional organizations support global learning.

Suggested Learning Outcomes

Upon reflection, listeners to this episode will be able to:

- Identify common themes that underlie different definition of global learning
- Explain why connection making is fundamental to global learning
- Articulate why global learning is critical to all students' education

Discussion Questions

- Whitehead calls global learning one of the most powerful forms of liberal education. Why?
- Why do campuses need to determine their own definition of global learning?
- How should colleges and universities determine their own definition of global learning?
- How can institutions make clear to students why they are engaging in global learning?
- In what ways can online learning foster global learning in ways that face-to-face classes can't?
- What teaching experience made "global learning come alive" for Whitehead?
- Why is connection making foundational to global learning?

Suggested Activities

- Challenge listeners to take an international education assignment, such as one in which students are learning about a different people or places, and turn it into a global learning assignment, in which students analyze the topic from different perspectives (cultural, disciplinary, geographic, etc).
- Have listeners visit the web sites of the different U.S.-based professional organizations that address global learning (see show notes). Ask them to identify resources applicable to their work and determine which they might consider their professional “home.”
- Ask listeners to develop a message that communicates the value of global learning to their community. Listeners can use any medium, e.g. newspaper opinion piece, data visualization, 30-second commercial, podcast interview, digital advertisement.

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About the Podcast

“Making Global Learning Universal” is a collection of conversations about engaging diverse perspectives, collaboration, and complex problem solving in higher education—on campus, online, in local communities, and abroad. Episodes are posted seasonally. Guests are from a wide variety of institutions, geographies, and areas of teaching, research, and practice. All episodes are accompanied by show notes, transcripts, and discussion guides to enhance global learning professional development, leadership, and teacher preparation.

The podcast is hosted by [Stephanie Doscher](#), Director of Global Learning Initiatives at Florida International University and co-author of *Making Global Learning Universal: Promoting Inclusion and Success for All*.

The “Making Global Learning Universal” podcast is produced through a partnership between Florida International University’s Office of Global Learning Initiatives, Media Technology Services, and Disability Resource Center.

Episodes, show notes, transcripts, and discussion guides are available at <http://globallearningpodcast.fiu.edu>.

You may subscribe to the “Making Global Learning Universal” [RSS feed](#) or access the podcast via [iTunes](#), [Spotify](#), or [Stitcher](#). “Making Global Learning Universal” is also listed on [MERLOT](#).

Listener recommendations

“Making Global Learning Universal” is always looking for new guests to join the show and interesting topics to cover. [Email us](#) to make a suggestion!

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