

Discussion Guide

Episode 3: Cultivating a Pathway for Global Learning at University of Michigan-Dearborn

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

This episode features a discussion with four key persons involved with the design and implementation of a new global learning pathway through the general education curriculum at the University of Michigan-Dearborn: Domenico Grasso, Chancellor; Ilir Miteza, Associate Provost for Graduate, Global and Digital Education; Scott Riggs, Director of Global Engagement; and, Vivian Adams, student leader. Dearborn's pathway, named Discovery Quest, is integrative, experiential, and open to students in any major. The episode involves a discussion of how Dearborn defined global learning for themselves, how they built Discovery Quest on the firm foundation of existing global learning opportunities in their institution, and how they connect students'

global learning to other major strategic research and engagement initiatives.

Suggested Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify potential organizing principles for broad-based global learning initiatives.
- Explain the relationship between students' global learning and faculty research and engagement.
- Provide reasons students should be involved in designing global learning initiatives

Discussion Questions

- In what ways are University of Michigan-Dearborn and FIU's definitions of global learning similar? In what ways are they different?
- Why is it important to have students involved in designing global learning initiatives? What is the relationship between student and senior administrator leadership of global learning?
- What methods are used to gain buy-in from different University of Michigan-Dearborn stakeholder groups?
- How can students be "pollinators" for strategic and preeminent research and engagement programs?
- How does global learning influence how people view relationships among disciplines?

Suggested Activities

- Ask listeners to summarize the steps University of Michigan-Dearborn took to develop its global learning pathway through the undergraduate curriculum.
- Grand Challenges, Great Debates, and the Sustainable Development Goals are all discussed as possible organizing principles for global learning in this episode. Have listeners research other sources of good global learning problems that could drive a broad-based initiative on their campus.
- Ilir Miteza talks about the institution's responsibility to connect students' global learning in order to engender a sense of meaning and purpose. Have listeners research how this might be done at their institution. Are there untapped opportunities for connection making?

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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://globallelearningpodcast.fiu.edu>.

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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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