

# From Domestic vs. International to Domestic and International:

## An Open Dialogue Led by Students

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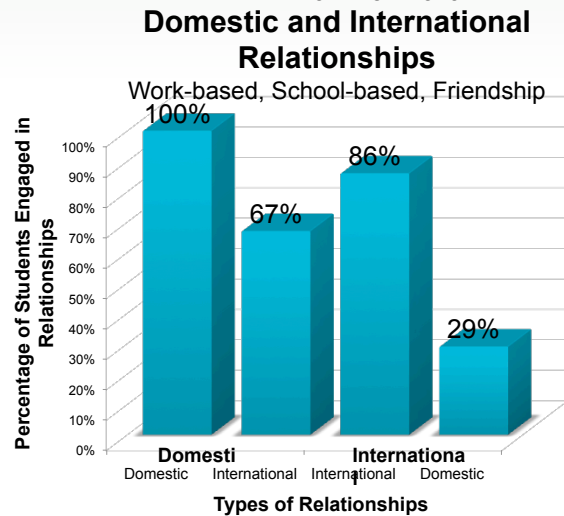
### Why?

“...American girls don’t want to be friends with Chinese girls.”

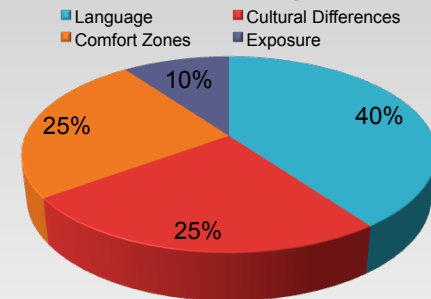
- Felt a disconnect on campus between international and domestic students
- Created strong connections and friendships across cultures in LeaderQuest
- Heard international students express extreme gratitude when included by international students
- **Asked: Is this a problem?**

### What We Did

*We facilitated a dialogue about the interactions between international and domestic students. By highlighting the presenters’ experiences in LeaderQuest and life as domestic and international students and incorporating the personal experiences and observations of the participants, we opened communication and addressed social issues about what limits our relationships across cultures in a safe, honest, and non-judgmental environment.*



### Barriers to Cross-Cultural Relationships



“You have to be willing to step outside [of your comfort zone] or you won’t get anywhere near what you’re trying to do.”

“You can go all the way through college without interacting with an international student and vice versa....

I wish it didn’t have to be that way, but some people just don’t want to learn about other cultures.”

“Not until I came to the U did I realize what diversity was... That’s when it was finally an issue.”

“I almost think it’s more of a comfort zone issue that’s caused by not knowing the language and by not pushing yourself out of the comfort zone.”