How to Improve the Success and Engagement of International Students?
Carlson Global Connect (CGC) Event Series
Anny Lin, Xiaoji Zhang

Opportunity Statement
• Build strong Carlson international student community by providing tangible and high-impact programming and services.
• Create professional networking opportunity among international student and faculty in Carlson School.
• Offer business school and major specific learning opportunity for Carlson degree-seeking undergraduate international students.

Why is CGC needed?

International Students at Carlson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International</th>
<th>Domestic Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9%</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources that International Students Need

- How to find job and internships: 46
- Learning and teaching style differences: 9
- US business culture: 36
- US Culture: 9
- Adjusting to life in the US: 12
- Academic programs: 15
- Academic requirements: 23
- Job Search tools: 35
- Career exploration: 45

Carlson International Student Survey 2009

Academic Connections
• Carlson Global Connect Kick Off and Networking event with Carlson undergraduate faculty
• CGC event series inform Carlson faculty, advisors, and students the trends of Carlson undergraduate degree-seeking international student body, including portrait of enrollment and changes of major discipline.

Career Connections
• Job Searching Tips for International Students
• Learn internship and job search tips in the U.S. from experienced junior and senior international students.

Intercultural Communication and Social Connections
• Break down the different cultural styles and increase self-awareness of the impact on intercultural communications in a global scale

Results

- Faculty involvement: 13 vs. 18
- Student attendance for the 2011 event series: 110
- 71% of the students agree that the event increased their confidence of making friends with Americans
- 100% of the students responded to the survey suggested they would recommend this event to other international students.

What did the students say?
• “They (the faculty) are much friendlier than I thought and they gave me a lot of suggestions about how to decide my major!”
• “(The student panel gave) pretty good examples and (shared their) experience and let me know more about how to engage in the campus or community.”
• “I was amazed to meet students from so many countries!”
• “There are many other students who know my feelings.”

Acknowledgements and Contacts
• Carlson Global Connect (CGC) Event Series Committee:
  - Anny Lin, Academic Advisor at the Undergraduate Program Office (UGP) in the Carlson School of Management
  - Xiaoji Zhang, Career Coach at the Undergraduate Business Career Center (UBCC) in the Carlson School of Management
• With Support from:
  - Beth Isensee, Director of International Student Engagement at ISSS
  - Jan O’Brien, Director of Student Services, Carlson School of Management
  - Mary Kosir, Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Program, Carlson School of Management
  - Connie Wanberg, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Program, Carlson School Management

International Student Career Panel
Learning from peers
Connect with peers
Win a book about job search tips in the U.S.

Prof. Svjetlana Madzar talking about cross-culture team communication
Kevin Havard at the Undergrad Program office talking about American football

Students and faculty are seated by majors
Faculty sharing their story and advices
Networking with faculty
Connect with faculty