

# Fostering Learner Success

International Education in all its forms is an essential component in the process of fostering qualities of global citizenship within our learners. International Education programs contributes in the following ways:

## Value:

- UMaine recruits and retains international students and scholars, who are diverse, excel academically, and actively participate in UMaine's academic and cultural life. They contribute to diversity in the classroom which offers a richer academic experience comprised of diverse voices, languages, opinions and experiences, and enhances all learners' success.
- Study abroad is a high impact practice which prepare our students to be global citizens. While abroad, students are ambassadors of our institution and state, and upon their return infuse global knowledge inside and outside the classroom.
- Faculty mobility is critical for conducting research and attending conferences abroad. Promoting international professional development and teaching abroad for faculty impacts research productivity, assists in internationalization of the curriculum, and increases student mobility.
- A diverse curriculum addressing the diverse needs of all learners improves intercultural skills and global knowledge

## Goals:

Development of a comprehensive strategic plan for internationalization that includes the following components that will improve learner success and adequately prepare them for jobs in an increasingly diverse workforce:

- Creation of a recruitment plan for international students based on an intentional assessment of the diversity needs of the campus. Aligning travel and scholarship budgets to these goals.
- Addressing cultural and academic needs of international students and scholars to improve retention and academic performance.
- Enhancing the internationalization of the curriculum
- Expanding intercultural programming to include a wider array of topics beyond celebrations of cultural differences.

- Embedding education abroad into the curriculum to offer each student a global experience

## **Strategies:**

Convene working group of campus partners in all sectors of the institution to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for internationalization. Within the area focused on learner success the plan should include the following:

- Enhance academic advising and first year experience for new international students and scholars through extended orientation and a FYS international success course
- Provide faculty training to implement more diverse and international curriculum, and develop global learning outcomes
- Offer expanded programming on social justice issues, socio-economic and cross-cultural concepts in a global context across all non-academic units
- Increase visibility of international students and scholars through publications and media
- Increase mobility for faculty to gain further global knowledge and contacts through seed grants
- Launch an education abroad curriculum integration program to increase student mobility in each major, and improve intercultural learning and global skills of all graduates
- Create support infrastructure for international travel study courses to improve faculty support, and increase student and faculty short-term mobility

## **Indicators:**

- Improved retention and graduation rates for international students
- Increased number of international students and scholars from currently underrepresented regions of the world (Africa, South and Central America, Southeast Asia, and Central and Eastern Europe)
- Increased commitment for intercultural programming across campus
- Increased education abroad mobility across all academic programs