



# LESSONS FROM ABROAD

*Study Abroad Returnee Conference*

## **What Makes a “Lessons From Abroad” Conference?**

- Collaborative initiative led by volunteering professionals from campuses and IEOs in a geographical area and/or collaboration amongst different offices on-campus
- Professional atmosphere that includes engagement, reflection and networking for students
- Clearly articulated curriculum with student learning objectives (SLOs) and mechanisms to assess whether those objectives have been met (evaluations)
- Opportunities for students to reflect, process, and share their experiences with peers
- Time for students to learn about opportunities to go abroad again (graduate school, volunteer, work, teach, other international opportunities abroad, etc.)
- Affordable and accessible for students within a defined region
- Keynote speaker and professionals panel
- Standardized conference handbook with additional resources for continued reflection after the conference
- Full schedule (the day should be fast-paced to keep students engaged)
- Encourages attendees to be global ambassadors and provides ways that students can engage their local communities in an international style/approach
- Mixture of students from different types of program experiences and locations
- Mixture of speakers & volunteers from different types of program, work experiences and locations
- Personalized marketing efforts (liaison positions, phone calls in addition to emails, etc)
- Passion/dedication of the staff working on the conference
- Solid commitment of the host location with regard to both space and manpower
- Grassroots effort
- Provides an example of what recent graduates can expect from professional conferences in their chosen field
- Facilitated learning and integration for students to ensure full-circle scholarship for education abroad
- Common branding and marketing strategy
- Fun, for students and professionals!