

Project Link
Net Impact Undergraduate Chapter
University of California, Davis
Education Team

Problem:

Through technological gains, the American job market has become global. Yet, there is a clear disconnect between the American public and international affairs. Current and future generations of Americans need to develop intercultural awareness and communication in order to succeed in a global marketplace and an increasingly interconnected world.

Solution:

Our goal is to create a cross cultural communication program that combines video-chats/logs and social media between UC Davis students and students from partner universities overseas in order to enhance the experience of having an academic “pen-pal”. In order to bring about change, it requires developing interest and opportunity in international affairs among college students. We want to generate a critical mass of future globally aware leaders. We believe this effort could foster a mindset of culture-sharing, academic diversity, and global communication - skills we need to face the problems of tomorrow

How have we succeeded?

We have established a seminar that will address the root issues we see in our community. We will implement student feedback through pre and post surveys to understand the positive outcomes of our seminar, what students have learned as well as the areas in which we can improve.

What additional resources helped us achieve our goal?

Our main factor for success would be our connections:

1. Kyeema Zerbe - Associate Director at Innovation Institute for Food and Health
2. Ashley Vater - Curriculum Planner for First Year Seminars
3. Leanne Balano - UC Davis Undergraduate Seminar Host
4. Dr. Dean Tantillo - Professor of Chemistry
5. Stephanie Hare - Graduate Student under Dr. Tantillo
6. Christina Siracusa - Program Coordinator and Advisor, UCEAP Europe and Latin America
7. Kausi Ramen - UC Davis Net Impact Undergraduate Team Member
8. Dr. Philipp Zerbe - Assistant Professor of Plant Biology

9. Dr. Brandie Nonnecke - Research and Development Manager: Program Director of CITRIS

Final Steps

1. Pre Pilot Summer 2017
 - a. We will be pairing 2-4 UC Davis students together to run through the modules and give feedback about the clarity, logistics, and cohesiveness of the seminar as a whole.
2. Pilot Fall 2017
 - a. Our first seminar will be Fall 2017. Dr. Tantillo will be the Faculty Sponsor and his graduate student Stephanie Hare will be hosting the seminar and completing the day to day management of the seminar. Dr. Zerbe will be an auditor, and Mrs. Kyeema Zerbe will be an administrative aide.
3. Winter 2018
 - a. Our second seminar will be Winter 2018. Dr. Zerbe will be the Faculty Sponsor and co-hosting with Stephanie Hare.
4. Advisory Board
 - a. We asked five of our connection to be on our board of advisors.
 - i. Kyeema Zerbe
 - ii. Dr. Dean Tantillo
 - iii. Ashley Vater
 - iv. Dr. Philipp Zerbe
 - v. Stephanie Hare