

CIE Action Plan 2019-2020

Goals

Update the International Studies Curriculum

Update the International Studies major with the objective of better implementing the program's mission: to encourage students' critical understanding of the complex realities of diverse peoples, groups, and communities in an increasingly interconnected world and develop and strengthen the knowledge, skills, and disposition necessary for international engagement. To this end, *the International Studies committee* will develop a new set of learning objectives and outcomes. Then, in Spring 2019 they will offer course redesign grants to faculty to change elements of their classes. Furthermore, the CIE director will work with the AVP for Budget and Research to create a financial support for 1) students' independent/mentored research opportunities, 2) faculty professional development opportunities, and 3) students participation in experiential learning opportunities. We will assess the fulfillment of this objective by determining if the new curriculum is finished and implemented by the end of the Spring 2020 semester.

Address Financial Constraints that Limit Participation in Study Abroad

The objective is to increase the number of students participating in study abroad opportunities. Not every student can go abroad during the semester and options over the summer are expensive, limiting the number of students that graduate with a study abroad experience. Therefore, the CIE will work to lower the cost of summer study abroad by 1) increasing the aid students receive and 2) increase the number of students receiving aid. In the Fall of 2018, the CIE director will continue to work with the AVP for Budget and Research and the AVP for Finance to develop a plan that increases the amount of aid Trinity can provide to students without negatively affecting the University's discount rate. To assess this objective we will measure the number of students participating in study abroad, the amount of aid that is made available, and the number of students taking advantage of the aid provided.

Create Latinx Leadership Center

Trinity has the opportunity to attract and train the best Latinx talent of the country. Therefore, faculty associated with the MAS program led by Dr. Juan Sepulveda and Dr. Rita Urquijo-Ruiz will create a working group that will develop and run a Latinx Leadership Program. Starting in the Spring of 2019 this group will develop and run a pilot version of the Leadership Program with 20 Latinx students. The goal are: 1) identify and equip Latinx leaders from diverse backgrounds and communities. 2) strengthen students' individual leadership skills, such as: systems practice, design thinking, emotional intelligence, networks analysis, evidence-based management, and adaptive leadership. To assess the effectiveness of the program, students will participate in a leadership dimensions inventory at the start and at the end of the program.

Student Voices

Maria Protic '18 on her time doing field research in Bosnia and presenting a paper at a National conference. "While abroad in Budapest, I had the opportunity to conduct field research on memorialization processes in Bosnia post the Balkan wars with Dr. Aloisi. Not only did I see firsthand the aftermath of the wars, but I also went to places we discussed throughout the course. We saw the destruction we read about in our cases, and heard from victims and witnesses. All of a sudden, what seemed a distant and almost surreal place and event was right in front of us and tangible. After conducting the research, I had the opportunity to present at the Midwestern Political Science Association Conference in Chicago with Dr. Aloisi. I was able to speak about my experience, findings, and discuss potential solutions with professors who were in attendance. Overall, I was so thankful and fortunate to have had the opportunity to conduct research with Dr. Aloisi, it gave me a new perspective, I was able to fully apply what I had learned, and because of that opportunity, I had a better sense of the future profession I wanted to be in. I don't know if I would have had this opportunity at any other institution, and I am forever grateful."

Carlotta De Bellis '20, EcoCiv Program 2018 (Field Fellowship): "I cannot stress how happy I am that I took part of such a great program last summer. What I appreciate the most are the connections that I have made with the UIC students and the Trinity ones. Their students were some of the kindest people I have met and made this experience so enriching as we got to learn through them so much about the area and its culture. I was able to participate in this program mainly because of the fellowship I received. I truly hope that the funding for this program and others like this continue so that other students like me can benefit from such a great experience!"

Meredith Licata '18, Shanghai Program 2017 (Field Fellowship): "I think the education I received by attending this program is one I could not possibly receive at any other time. Navigating the streets of Shanghai, the subway, and the rainy season contained a steep learning curve but we eventually mastered how to get by. However, I realized that my Mandarin speaking skills are not nearly where I want them to be. I feel inspired to become fluent. I know now that I want to live, work, or study in China after graduation."

Christian Vargas '18 McNair Scholar, CIE travel scholarship. "My experiences abroad in Nicaragua were truly transformative and helped solidify my decision to study public health. On a personal level, as the son of Mexican immigrants, I have always been proud of my heritage and have strived to pursue a career field that can help uplift the Latino community. I am no stranger to the poverty and challenges I witnessed in Nicaragua, as I have been to Mexico regularly and have seen the conditions that my parents grew up in and struggled to overcome. As a senior biology student at Trinity University, I plan to pursue my Master's in Public Health degree next fall to follow my passion for examining the social and biological determinants of health, specifically for Latino populations."