



SoTL Grant Closure Report (2019 – 2020)

I. Basic Information

Title of Project: Teaching Sustainability and Climate Resilience using Intercultural Virtual Exchange (IVEx, a Global Learning Experience), in a multi-disciplinary environment, as a driver to accelerate global perspectives, expose students to global issues, and facilitate student discourse while increasing intercultural competence.

Investigator(s) Information

Principal Investigator:

Name: Mona Pearl

College: Business

Department: Management & Entrepreneurship

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II. Project Update

Research Question

What is the effect of Intercultural Virtual Experience on the acquisition of a global perspective (information, data, research, problems and solutions) to contemporary issues and solutions of sustainability and climate resilience?

Can a global sustainability competence be significantly developed/increased through a structured Intercultural Virtual Exchange team project work environment, using technology for virtual communication? What may be the activities/framework that contribute to developing awareness and discourse to initiate innovation and solutions to current issues?

Progress Report

We followed the project plan and timeline that was submitted, and added several activities:

- An extended virtual exchange project focused on sustainability is launched in Autumn 2020, based on the principles and lessons-learned from this experiment
- The data collected was aggregated and analyzed
- This research will be expanded and the results published in 2021 with the additional exchanges
- Our proposals for academic publishing have produced the following publications:

[Intercultural Virtual Exchange and Sustainability]

- Pearl, Verruck, “Brazil, France, and the USA: A Multidisciplinary Cross-Continental Approach Teaching Global Sustainability Mastery Skills for Impact”, ICSD 2020: 8th International Conference on Sustainable Development, September 2020
- Our additional articles are being peer-reviewed by two additional academic journals
- We were accepted to present in the following conferences on our virtual exchange experiment on sustainability:
 - IVEC 2020 in the UK – virtual online
 - ICSD-SDSN 2020 in the US – virtual online
 - ALEFE-TAPP in Spain has been postponed for next year due to the pandemic
 - APAIE in Canada has been postponed for next year due to the pandemic

Impact

Our methodology for teaching as well as collaboration and research opened the doors for new opportunities for intercultural virtual exchange programs and collaboration, while DePaul university is the leader in all these projects.

More so, I have been approached by additional universities in Brazil, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Mexico, Australia, and others, to collaborate in terms of virtual exchanges, research and joint publishing.

Impact on students:

The international virtual teamwork exchange provided the students with a concrete experience that required open-mindedness and adaptability, reflective observation, abstract conceptualization, and active experimentation.

Students are gaining the following skills as a result of this structured learning:

Intercultural Virtual Teamwork Collaboration	Project Based Learning	Simulate Real Life Situations	Global Citizenship
Decision-Making	Critical Thinking	Problem-Solving	Leadership
Intercultural Competence	Global Curiosity	Empathy	Technology

Impact on DePaul courses:

Being at the forefront of pedagogy in terms of intercultural global exchange programs, while students are gaining global perspectives and hands-on experience parallel to following course teaching objectives and learning outcomes.

Impact on DePaul leadership and recognition:

An experimental research approach that is leading to expanded research, publications and presentations in global conferences.

[Intercultural Virtual Exchange and Sustainability]

Personal:

Engaging and developing research while collaborating with universities and professors on a global level.

Dissemination

- Our proposals for academic publishing have produced the following publications:
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III. Expense Report

Expenditure	Amount Requested	Amount Spent	Notes
Conferences: travel & registration	\$2,300	\$2,409	Some conferences where our work was accepted for presentation, moved to virtual. Others, are postponed to next year.
Membership for publication	\$200	\$45	UniCollaboration
	Total	Total	
	\$2,500	\$2,454	

[Intercultural Virtual Exchange and Sustainability]

Budget item	Estimated cost in US dollars
Travel and registration fees to disseminate, in appropriate conferences, the outcomes or final results of the research project. Potential conferences and venues: Vancouver FAUBAI Brazilian new conference UK – UniCollaboration Working on with Sylvaine Other education conferences	\$900
Publication cost of the outcomes or final results of the research project in quality scholarly outlets such as peer-reviewed general or discipline-specific journals.	\$200
Travel and registration fees for teaching seminars or workshops directly related to the research question being addressed in the project. We expect to be invited to other universities as well as corporate settings.	\$500
Travel to promote collaboration on the project.	\$900
Total (should not exceed \$2500):	\$2,500