“Chatter” – Scaling Up An Intercultural Activity With a larger population

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Overview

• **Who:** Purdue’s Campus Recreation Center the “Co-Rec” – Student Employment Staff Training

• **Why:** To increase the use of the Co-Rec by international students

• **Goals:**
  • Empathy
  • Cultivating a more welcoming environment for international students
Process

How: Collaborative Discussion between Co-Rec and CILMAR staff

Why: To increase the use of the Co-Rec by international students

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• What: A simple activity able to be done with large number of students (two cohorts of 250)
“Chatter” Activity

• From “Diversity Games”
• Overview of activity / Timing 5 intro, 15 play, 15 debrief
• Small Groups / Leader at each table / Several Rounds / Space / conversation topics
• Intended Learning Outcomes:
  • Promotes awareness and experience of different communication styles through prescribed “cultural norms” of conversation.
  • Uses non-verbal, verbal, physical distance, positive versus negative reactions, and subjective versus objective descriptions.
“Chatter” Debrief

• Used students as conversation leaders at each table to have responsibility for debrief questions and “shout out” in group debrief

• 8 Questions (handout) / 2 minutes max per question – Adaptation of Thiagi’s 6 phase model debrief:
  1) How do you feel?  5) What if?
  2) What happened?  6) What next?
  3) What did you learn?
  4) How does this apply (to the real world)? To your role/work in the Co-Rec
“Chatter” Debrief

• Small group leaders and others shared with entire group – Two options

• In large group – as lead facilitator:
  • Making relevant connections with participant’s responses
  • Provide additional culture specific examples
  • Increases other’s willingness to share

• Final “What if? What next? What did you learn? – Reflective / Action
“Chatter” Debrief

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Assessment

Ways to ask about their culture without being rude

I would like to know how to identify ethnicities

How to verbally communicate with international students.

I feel like many of or trainings we have been taught how to be accepting of other cultures and how to develop effective relationships with people of other cultures. Therefore, I feel comfortable developing these relationships
Lessons Learned

• Knowing how and when is appropriate to initiate a conversation with a patron from a different culture

• More international interaction.

• Maybe a briefing on the major differences between the cultures that attend Purdue.
Lessons Learned

• Being educated on different cultures way of interacting with others
• I think it would be cool if international students would be willing to volunteer to tell us a little about their culture and social norms so that we can interact with them respectfully and on a more personal level
• Actually learning the specifics of different cultures instead of vague information.
• More specific information on how certain cultures operate & specific characteristics of the main cultures here at Purdue.