

Title: “Making Inclusion the End Goal: Redefining Internationalization through Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion(DEI) at U.S. Higher Education Institutions.”

Abstract

International students in higher education are often categorized under “institutional labels” despite their tremendous diversity. Unfortunately, this label obscures the unique experiences and complexities that characterize international students. As a result, internationalization and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion(DEI) are considered under separate conversations and offices. Over the years, recruiting international students in higher education institutions has often been viewed as a distinct role of internationalization. However, despite the continuous recruitment, enrollment of international students does not equate to the attainment of diversity and inclusion in academic communities. Therefore, realigning DEI policies to address internationalization is crucial to creating a meaningful and welcoming experience for international students. The current study seeks to examine and understand the role of DEI in internationalization at a four-year public university. Specifically, the researcher will explore the experiences of international students. The findings from the study can inform institutional policies to achieve a more meaningful and organic commitment toward international students’ equity and inclusion on campus.

Keywords: Internationalization, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, DEI, higher education, international students