Innovation in International Education

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Innovation?

• What does it mean to innovate?
• Why do we need to innovate?
  • How are we doing?
To innovate is...

- To imagine new possibilities
- To think differently
- To experiment with new ideas and ways of doing things
- To be resourceful
- To be creative and generative

Why do we need to innovate?

Message of the conference...

- The “business” of education is not “as usual”
- We no longer have a choice but to innovate for North American higher education institutions
  - to remain relevant &
  - contribute effectively in addressing the chaotic global reality.
- While global issues manifest themselves differently, the “global chaotic reality” ultimately impacts us all.
Why?
Rising demand for higher education
› Opportunities and demand of globalized, knowledge based economy
› Despite increase in national capacity, the demand still exceeds supply in many countries
› Yet in some countries – such as Canada – demographic shifts in non-metropolitan areas has resulted in supply exceeding demands.

Can a balance of supply and demand be achieved by exploring innovative solutions across the North American space?

How are we doing with our innovation efforts…?
Evidence of innovation…
• CONAHEC organization has re-imagined how it can promote partnerships both within and with North American through
  › The inclusion of affiliate members &
  › Linkages with other organizations.
How are we doing with our innovation efforts…?

• Conference themes as a barometer of the degree of innovation underway
  › Variations on Partnership Models
  › Moving beyond bilateral exchanges
  › Dual Degrees – 2+2; 1+1 –

Might we push ourselves further?

› Strategic, Multifaceted Partnership
› Use of partner institutions networks
› Mobility models with service learning
› Using technology to advance global learning and international research
A few additional propositions to consider…

• How might engagement in meaningful assessment of our partnership activities generate ideas for improvement and innovation?
• How might additional research on partnerships and internationalization lay the groundwork for innovations?

A case in point on research “Making the Link”

• Purpose: Examine the relationship between partnerships and internationalization and explore how it can be enhanced.
• Qualitative case studies in Quebec, Canada (spring 2009) and Central Region Occidente of Mexico (fall 2009)
• Supported by Fulbright-Engers-Garcia funding from the three governments
Generation of Knowledge AND ideas for Additional Research

• Coordinated Mapping of International Partnerships Across North America by those who have engaged in prior inventory work (IIE, AUCC, ANUIES, CONAHEC) and development of typology
• Mapping of Status of Internationalization at Mexican higher education institutions that is comparable to AUCC and ACE mapping research.
• Comparative Study of Canadian Institutions in other Provinces and Mexican Institutions in other Regions
• Parallel Case studies of private universities across Mexico

Opportunities for Additional Research

• Case Studies of U.S. partner institutions identified through Quebec and Mexican cases to explore partnership impact on internationalization at these U.S. institutions
• Comparative Faculty / Field specific case studies (i.e. Engineering or Business School partnership models in relation to internationalization of units)
• Syllabi Review and course observations in targeted academic programs to explore partnership impact on curriculum.
• Longitudinal study of impact on professors careers.
• Longitudinal study of impact on students careers.
Questions and Discussion

What innovative idea are you taking away from this conference for potential implementation at your institution?

How do you envision collaborating with a North American partner in achieving this innovation?