

# **Developing Global Awareness. (A01-rickerl174920-Oral)**

## **Authors:**

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## **Abstract:**

How do we develop students' global awareness? We make them leave home. The Central Administration and Ag/Bio College at South Dakota State University have developed experiential education opportunities that incorporate travel to international sites to examine the agro-ecosystems of indigenous people and the mainstream population. Curriculum goals, accomplished through classroom and travel experience, are to prepare graduates who are competitive in an international context, globally informed, and prepared for a diverse world. The administrative structure at SDSU includes support for: (1) administrators who coordinate activities intended to expand global awareness of faculty and students, (2) faculty development coordinators who create programs to educate faculty members to teach and deal with global issues, and (3) faculty who develop and deliver course work. The focus of the Ag/Bio course is the interaction among cultures and their agro-ecosystems. The class begins with a global introduction, site-specific information, and a pre-travel perspective. During the travel experience students are required to keep journals and gather information for their final presentations. Upon return a reflection panel addresses questions with the entire class. The final presentation addresses agro-ecology issues in indigenous and dominant cultures. Assessment includes pre- and post-travel questionnaires as well as course evaluation.

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