




# INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

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# Goals of this session...

- Define “international collaboration”
- Explore virtual international collaboration as a way to extend our borders in every *field of study*
- Share strategies that enhance collaboration
- Discover those barriers that can slow down a project
- Establish a model for successful international collaboration
- ***Encourage future international collaborations!***

# WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THIS SESSION?

Please answer the questions on the next screen in the Chat Box

# Type into the Chat Box (include the number of the question in your answer)

1. Your position (staff, instructor, professor, scientist, researcher, etc.)
2. Have you ever collaborated with a colleague from another culture? (YES or NO)
3. If no, do you plan to try international collaboration within the next few months? (YES or NO)
4. Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way you work with others? (YES or NO)
5. Do you have a comment or question at this point? (YES or NO – if yes, we will try to call on you to ask it!)

***Congratulations, you just engaged in an international online communication that could be the start of an international collaboration!***

# *What exactly IS International Collaboration?*

- Peer-to-peer (faculty-to-faculty; student-to-student; instructor-to instructor; scientist-to-scientist; and the list goes on and on...)
- Technology enabled communication (Zoom, email, WhatsApp, Skype) that is either in real time (synchronous) or not in real time (asynchronous)
- Facilitated (purposeful or structured) experiential learning, writing, or developing
- Enhanced cultural awareness as people work together, learn together, share life stories together, and understand each other

# What makes it work?

- Ability to suspend cultural judgement and bias by letting go of stereotypes we may have developed through films, media, and popular tabloids
- Project or purpose (course project; grant writing; journal writing; research study) that has structure, goals, and deadlines
- Commitment to expend time and effort to schedule regular meeting times with goals for those meetings set
- Sharing ideas to develop documents and engage in common work
- ***Examples? Briefly state a project that might come to mind in the Chat (e.g., grant writing or scientific research project) Be sure to check to see if someone has a similar idea to yours! That may be a future collaboration!!!***

# Possible Barriers

- Language
- Cultural *faux pas*
- Time Zones
- Lack of clarity of goals and roles

# Strategies to enhance international collaboration among professional colleagues

- Identify the project or task to accomplish
- Choose team members
- Establish areas of expertise for each team member
- Learn about the other culture to avoid unintentional *faux pas*
- Set specific meeting times/days of the week and maintain schedule
- Set schedule for tasks to accomplish with a means of sharing work between meetings (e.g., Google Drive; WhatsApp, etc.)



# Strategies for Engaging Students in International Collaboration

- Spend time on cultural mapping and cross-cultural communication
- Establish a specific project with goals and roles for each team member
- Choose technology carefully
- Use both asynchronous and synchronous meetings (when possible)
- Communication, communication, communication...

# Example of Classes for International Collaboration

- Cross-Cultural Business Communication Class
- International Issues in Technology
- International Issues in Sustainability
- Leading Virtual Teams

Collaboration among Appalachian State University (USA), Novgorod State University (Russia), and the University of Free State (South Africa)

# Example of Professional Collaboration

- Grant proposal to the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation (USA) with colleagues from Appalachian State, Novgorod State and the University of Free State
- Co-authoring professional writing (Appalachian and Novgorod State; and Appalachian State and University of Free State)
- Co-presenting at International Conferences (Appalachian State and Novgorod State)

# QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Please ask to be recognized in the Chat Box

