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Europäische Akademie Otzenhausen Global Perspectives Workshop Report

In my application to participate in the Global Perspectives Workshop, I noted a desire to contribute to KSU's global learning initiatives by creating a leadership studies curriculum that exposes students to the knowledge, skills, and awareness critical for leading in a global society. What I proposed was incorporating global issues into the leadership studies courses by creating an elective course (Leadership and Global Issues).

Related to my proposed plan, one of the most impactful moments at the Europäische Akademie Otzenhausen was listening to and learning from the scholars who were working on immigration issues from different perspectives. Learning about European identity, the EU migration policy, as well as the refugee crisis provided invaluable knowledge that would be helpful in framing migration as part of a global leadership challenge.

Due to leadership and curricular changes in my college and department, I am unable to submit the course for approval at this time. However, I have found ways to incorporate the content into an existing course: LDRS 3200/ Leadership in a global society. I have used the European identity, migration, and immigration content to teach units on Leadership and Culture and intercultural competence. For example, one module examines how immigration changes or impacts culture, as well as cultural prototypes of leadership (How might refugees impact local cultures as they assimilate or acculturate, and how might expectations of what a leader looks like and does change). I have also used the European Migrant crisis to examine the nuances of diversity, and I created an exercise that helps students reflect on how life might be for an immigrant. Students noted that this was a challenging exercise because they really had no idea about the challenges that immigrants face, but were willing to do more

research on their own. We also talked about the wave of immigrants that are coming to the United States and reviewed the responses to immigration between US and European leadership.

I plan on creating a separate module on Immigration and leadership, incorporating some of the resources and scholarship shared by the speakers we met. This is an expansive subject that requires more time and attention, and students have responded to it positively. I am hopeful that I will be able to submit the Leadership and Global Issues course for approval after my department completes its department overhaul, however, in the meantime, I am using the immigration related content in LDRS 3200/Leadership in a Global Society.

I have also approached the Center for Student Leadership to create a campus wide student leadership competition. The idea is for students to pick one major global issue, beginning with immigration, and propose practical solutions. Faculty from across campus would be invited to judge the presentations and pick a winner based on demonstrated understanding of the breadth and depth of the problem, as well as the feasibility of the solutions proposed.

An unexpected resource for LDRS 3000/Foundations of Leadership came about after visiting Platz des Unsichtbaren Mahnmals or the Invisible Memorial in Saarbrücken. Our guide explained that there was no physical memorial because each person remembered and experienced the holocaust differently. I have now incorporated this into LDRS 3000 to introduce students to the idea that leadership means different things to different people, at different times. This semester, I introduce an “Invisible Memorial of Leadership” exercise, which required each student to think about how they individually conceptualize and define leadership based on the people, places, things, and events that have influenced their personal and professional experiences.

