

CVIP ANNUAL RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

Welcome/Opening Statement

Lisa Homeniuk - our "newest president"

- Lisa's mom turned 101 years old yesterday and revealed her secret to longevity "Remain active" "Remain active"
- The great work from our volunteers does not go unrecognized.

Schedule for the day

- Joy Shantz here to represent OISS
- International Student Panel here (to be moderated by Connie Wolfe, Mary Hennessey)
- Focus group findings (in an effort to plan our future activities we obtained information from 3 Focus Groups this summer)
- Breakout sessions this afternoon (brainstorming to our future)
- Where do we go from here? (What action is needed to become a progressive 21st Century volunteer organization to meet the needs of our MSU international community)

Meet and greet - All individuals in attendance introduced themselves and their specific affiliation/endeavor under/within CVIP.

Eight things in Common – Broke into 4 groups of 4-5 people and found eight things we have in common with our fellow volunteers.

Open Fist Exercise– Try to open fist of your partner. Most people tried to do it physically. This is a communication exercise – to listen, to share, to learn. "Help will only come if you ask for it."

Summer Activities and Business

- We have four new "Board Members At Large"
Laura Bowman
Carlos Fuentes
Molade Obsibodu
Marisol Masso

- Met with GLUNA (Greater Lansing United Nations Association) to strengthen existing relationship
- East Lansing Welcomes the World is seeking volunteers (Barbara Sawyer-Koch offered her time)
- Joy, Lisa, Rick Emerson met with dean to discuss Memorandum of Understanding
- Bernard passed out copies of statement of volunteer expectations – to be signed by end of day
- Questions arose re: mandatory reporting of abuse. Reporting is not a requirement as a volunteer.
- Security measures for I-Speak and scholars visiting schools. Talk to teachers first – they will know protocol.
- Dottie Schmidt (speaking on behalf of Daniel Spadafore) re: scholarship. Goal remains to give 2-3 scholarships twice a year. Refer to CVIP Annual Report for data.

OISS Overview (Joy Shantz)

Summer update

- down staff, roles have been spread out
- International enrollment is down a bit, less than previously expected
- International Academic Orientation Program (IAOP) busy helping our new int'l undergrads get acclimated to MSU...saving/finding computers, passports, shoes along the way
- Campus partners and community have been very supportive
- International student retention is intact. 200 international parents here for this year's orientation.
- Interviewing 3 candidates for OISS Director. Forums open to public and can be found on OISS website.
- Counseling center available for international students experiencing difficulty adjusting to life far away from home – International Student Support Program
- Coffee Hour 4:00 – 6:00 every Friday afternoon - International Center
- Planning field trips this Fall
- Global Festival
- Thanksgiving Day dinner. Matching students with professors, faculty and staff.

STUDENT PANEL

Amy Chan – Hong Kong, dentist in her home country, husband Ph.D. student at MSU

Mia Lin – Taiwan, 2nd year masters student in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) active participant/volunteer in CVIP

Anna Akariza – Rwanda, sophomore

Molade Osibodu – Ph.D. student in Mathematics, new CVIP board member

Opening remarks

- *Aware of OISS but not CVIP.
- *Needs to be interesting to attract students.
- *As spouse, it's a challenge to meet new people.
- *English language practice is not focus for African students.

What is the ideal program for international students?

- *Help with transportation – especially in winter
- *Space where int'l students can “vent” exchange ideas on living, studying in the U.S.
- *Support int'l students during Winter/Spring Breaks (something to help combat loneliness, isolation during these stretches)
- *General awareness of all programs offered by CVIP.

How would you change CVIP?

- *Advertise more
- *Individual groups do not seem connected to CVIP
- *Support students/scholars financially in returning (visiting) home
- *Get more int'l students involved in CVIP
- *Send out weekly e-mails to int'l students (keeping them abreast of community happenings)

Do we need all CVIP programs?

- *Focus more on Africa
- *Be country specific (address issues specific to students from particular country)

FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Please note that the following is an overview of the discussion conducted by Connie and Mary. They compiled their findings in great detail in the Focus Group Report, which will serve as a baseline for CVIP to evolve and move forward.

**Why qualitative research?* The purpose is to determine how to meet the needs of our international students

Three focus groups were used – 2 student, 1 community

Themes – Involvement, Communication issues, Connections to community

Coffee Hour – A place where students learned about CVIP and its groups

Scholarship – students were appreciative (financial concerns are a big issue)

Bullying and Exclusion – how do they fit in?

Volunteers – how to find them, how to retain them

BREAKOUT SESSIONS, RESPONSE & REPORT

*We finished the retreat with our breakout sessions

*Brainstorming ideas on what to do moving forward, how we can better serve our int'l students and scholars

*How we become the organization that not only meets the need of our students, but also has the infrastructure to sustain itself through this process

WRAP UP

Get an outside facilitator to help implement changes – lead us through that process.