



Spelman Going Global! Developing Intercultural Competence Executive Summary

Spelman College has a long history of providing study abroad opportunities and hosting international students, beginning with the first Spelman student to travel abroad to the Congo, Nora Gordon, in 1889, and, in 1915, Flora Zeto, the first African graduate from what was then Spelman High School. In 2007-08, 159 of the 2343 Spelman students participated in Study Abroad for-credit programs. A total number of 224 students engaged in study-travel programs over all that same academic year.

Spelman global travel learning experiences have increased over the years under the direction of the Study Abroad Office and individual departments and programs. However, in order to provide study-travel experiences intentionally connected to our curriculum and encourage increased student travel over our baseline of 2007-2008 numbers, the QEP develops shared learning outcomes for global travel learning experiences; assesses study-travel experiences; and enhances the infrastructure providing and overseeing these experiences.

Specific goals of the Spelman QEP are to:

- 1) introduce the following required curricular components to global travel programs—
 - Cultural orientation seminar pre-departure
 - Reflective essays upon return (required as part of credit for study-travel)
 - Participation in re-integrative discussion groups on global experience (required as part of credit for study-travel experience)
- 2) identify and assess shared student learning outcomes across global travel experiences to develop intercultural competencies--
 - Outcome 1: Identify differences and commonalities of two world societies based on political, economic, social and /or cultural values during each study-travel experience.
 - Outcome 2: Develop a personal definition of cultural engagement that reflects openness to cultural difference; and
- 3) enhance and cohere the infrastructure for global programs and initiatives by
 - Hiring the Gordon-Zeto Dean for Global Education to establish the Gordon- Zeto Center for Global Education
 - Reorganize reporting structure so that Study Abroad and all study-travel programs and facilitators report to the Gordon-Zeto Dean.

With outcome-based study-travel experiences connected to the curriculum and a strengthened, cohesive infrastructure providing global education, the Spelman student will have the opportunity to develop the reflective and evaluative processes necessary to act on the inspiration intended in the College mission “to engage the many cultures of the world” From their personal experience of global education, students gain cultural competencies that enable them to recognize, understand, and value similarities and differences among people globally, thereby increasing their capacity to function effectively in international exchanges.

Contact Information:

Dr. Dimeji Togunde
Dean, Gordon-Zeto Center for Global Education
404-270-5681
dtogunde@spelman.edu