

Global Encounter-Brazil: Moving Toward Action Health, Education, and Social Disparities Group Report Out

Procedure used to generate this document:

Participants were asked to answer these questions in the pre-writing phase and before any group discussion:

What *factors* can help explain the gap between where we are today and where we want to be on the items discussed earlier within this theme area?

What *barriers/challenges* exist for MSU in acting on the opportunities? in this theme area?

What *advice* do you have for MSU concerning addressing the challenges and barriers to success as we move forward on the Brazil initiative (related to this theme area as well as in general)?

Do you want to be contacted for meetings/work *on this theme* and *Brazil* in the futures (and for other themes listed at the top of the previous page or in other Lusophone countries)?
If yes, indicate which themes and country/countries.

Additional comments?

After the pre-writing period, the group discussed questions 1-3. The report to the entire group should reflect the ideas the group wanted most to share with the larger group. These report-out notes are taken from the presentation the group facilitator made to the plenary session.

What *factors* can help explain the gap between where we are today and where we want to be on the items discussed earlier within the health, education, and social disparities theme?

What *barriers/challenges* exist for MSU in acting on the opportunities within the health, education, and social disparities theme?

(This group responded to both questions.)

- Size of the University
- Faculty interests-It is difficult for international students to find folks on campus to work with.
- Recruiting students-Need more institutional support to recruit/draw students from Brazil to MSU
- Diversity of disciplines
- Faculty need to publicize interests/goals via internet and more descriptors to allow students to locate them, determine if mutual interests exist.
- Interpersonal connections
- How can we keep track of everyone and everything?
- Language
- Resources-Funding
 - Dollars, especially for travel
- Cultural Sensitivity/Awareness-lack of
- Paternalism-MSU can learn, not just teach
- Clarity of our agenda-it will be important that MSU/Brazil partners both make it clear what each gets out of the partnership, expectations, and agendas
- Project sustainability
- Finding partners for collaborations-on campus and in Brazil
- Lack of formalized effort to bring efforts together until this event; the campus had not focused on Brazil previously so faculty/staff had not thought of Brazil collaborations as viable.
- Lack of interest in multi-disciplinary efforts
- Lack of interest in cultural understanding
- Lack of partners in Brazil-those willing to back interest with

resources and effort

What *advice* do you have for MSU concerning addressing the challenges and barriers to success as we move forward on the Brazil initiative (related to the theme area and as will in general)?

- Market MSU to students in Brazil.
- Emphasize collaborations and partnerships.
- Be clear on goals and objectives.
- Understand issues within social context of destination-increase cultural sensitivity
 - provide training
 - do paternalism checks
- Be aware of paternalistic view
- University needs to help faculty/staff focus efforts.
- Look at joint programs-provide MSU support for development and student support.
- Include teaching, outreach, and research in all aspects of the initiatives.
- Emphasize multi-disciplinary efforts.
- Consider impact of involvement on Brazilian universities as well as MSU.
- Clarity of our agenda-it will be important that MSU/Brazil partners both make it clear what each gets out of the partnership, expectations, and agendas.

This material was generated from Global Encounter-Brazil, <<http://www.isp.msu.edu/globalencounter/brazil>>, held at Michigan State University on November 7, 2006. This interactive and participatory event was designed to obtain input and to elaborate in a country-specific forum on relevant themes, opportunities, issues, and opportunities affecting MSU's current and future engagement in Brazil (and to some degree Lusophone countries).