

## **Connecting International and American Students on Campus**

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### **TEN MYTHS ABOUT INTERCULTURAL CONTACT**

- 1) Being in the vicinity of those who are different is sufficient.
- 2) Integration will happen through an “Intercultural activity.”
- 3) Learning about the “ tip of the cultural iceberg “ is sufficient.
- 4) No special preparation is needed for intercultural interactions – just bring people together and let things happen.
- 5) It’s best to “throw” people into uncomfortable cultural situations since that’s the way they can learn the most.
- 6) Intercultural contact can lead to intercultural understanding and integration.
- 7) Language fluency equates with cultural fluency.
- 8) Having a teacher or facilitators from a different cultural background will result in an increase in participants’ intercultural learning and integration.
- 9) Spending a limited amount of time in another culture means that person is an expert on that particular culture.
- 10) International students are interculturally competent.

## Debunking these myths:

- **Allport (1954): Contact Hypothesis** –Criteria for successful intercultural contact :
  - a) Equal Status
  - b) Common Goals
  - c) Intergroup Cooperation
  - d) Mutual support of authorities, laws or customs
- **Bennett (1993): Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity:**  
Six Stages- Denial, Defense/Polarization, Minimization, Acceptance, Adaptation, Integration
- **Deardorff (2009): Intercultural Competence Framework** – lifelong process, involves more than knowledge

