Connecting International and American Students on Campus

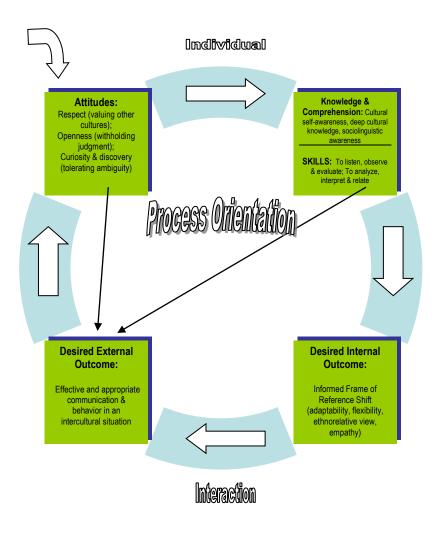
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TEN MYTHS ABOUT INTERCULTURAL CONTACT

- 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.
- 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.
- 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



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