



Increasing Participation in Study Abroad Programs at Community Colleges in NC

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Now is the time to build a firmer, stronger foundation for growth that will not only withstand future economic storms, but one that helps us thrive and compete in a global economy. It's time to reform our community colleges so that they provide Americans of all ages a chance to learn the skills and knowledge necessary to compete for the jobs of the future.”

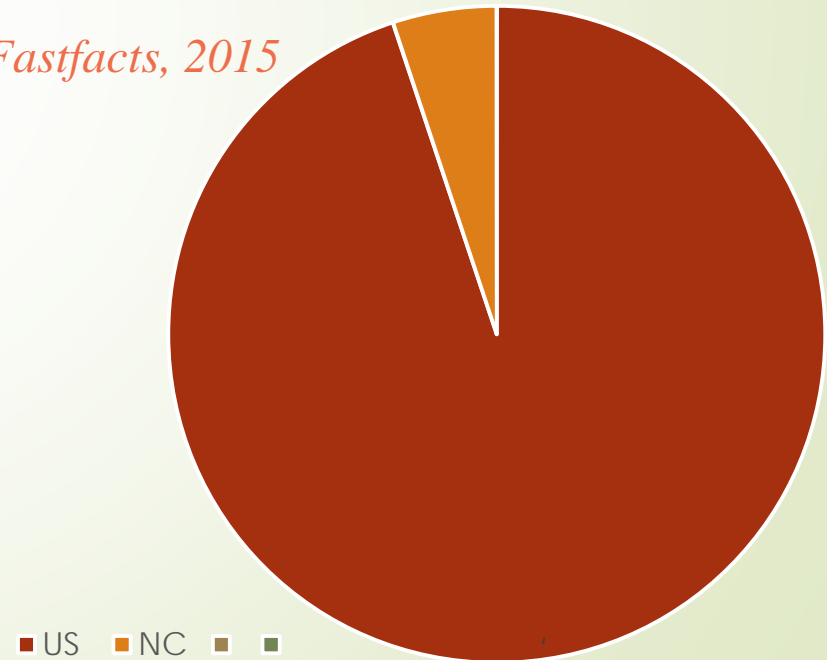
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US President Barack Obama, 2009, Warren, Michigan

**THE AMERICAN GRADUATION INITIATIVE: STRONGER AMERICAN SKILLS THROUGH
COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

- ❖ 204,467 US students “...studied abroad for academic credit” during the 2013/2014 academic year,
- ❖ 11,068 of these students were from NC

- Institute of International Education (IIE) Fastfacts, 2015





❖ Fewer than 10 percent of all U.S. undergraduate students (including community college students) will study abroad by the time they graduate”

- *Institute of International Education (IIE), Nov. 2013*

❖ “less than 3 percent of those who study abroad are community college students (p. 4).

- *Institute of International Education (IIE), 2008*



Barriers that Prevent NC Community College Students from Studying Abroad

- Student Barriers
- Programming Barriers
- Institutional Barriers



Student Barriers

- Cost
- Family Responsibilities
- Work Responsibilities
- Fear of the Unknown

Programming Barriers

- No study abroad programs in place at institutions
- No centralized office
- Curriculum issues (IIE, 2008; NASFA, 2015)
- Time and budget constraints of faculty that prevent them from leading a study abroad program
- Colleges not providing or not having the funds to pay for faculty travel abroad.

Institutional Barriers

- Lack of support from upper management
- Work overload for the staff/faculty involved in the study abroad effort on campus
- No available housing on campus for exchange students attending the college

Short Trips Preferred to Semester-Long Opportunities

- On a survey sent to colleges with Global Distinction scholar initiatives asking about the trips they currently sponsor, short 1-3 week trips were the norm.
- In an interview with Clayton Harrington Western Director of ISEP, he also recommended shorter travel abroad experiences for community colleges, preferably late spring through mid-summer during summer break.



Reasons Shorter Trips Are Preferred

- Costs are less, thus more affordable for working class students
- Many community college students have jobs or families
- Hard to match up program specific coursework of AAS programs with those programs at host schools
- Exchange programs more difficult because community colleges typically don't have on-campus housing.

ISEP (Internat'l Student Exchange program) offers Shorter Trips through ISEP Direct Program

- Cost is based on costs of flights, lodgings, food, and tours rather than tuition cost of their colleges.
- This cost is typically higher per day, but varies based on destination.
- Trips and study opportunities more based on language and culture lessons than academic coursework.
- The one community college that is an ISEP member only participates in ISEP Direct for these reasons. (Fox Valley Community College in Appleton, Wisconsin. They run 5-6 week programs.)