

Stevens Initiative

Webinar on Campus Internationalization and Virtual Exchange

February 28, 2019 | 12-1pm ET

As college and university campuses strive to internationalize, many are integrating innovative virtual exchange experiences into their courses across the institution's many disciplines. Virtual exchange is a growing field that helps students to gain global competencies and career readiness skills that make them competitive in the 21st century. This webinar will spotlight approaches that different institutions have taken to internationalize the campus experience through virtual exchange.

Agenda

12:00 PM Opening Remarks

Mohamed Abdel-Kader, Executive Director, The Stevens Initiative, The Aspen Institute,
[@MAKtweeter](#)

12:10 PM Panel Discussion

Mohamed Abdel-Kader, Executive Director, The Stevens Initiative, The Aspen Institute,
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GianMario Besana, Associate Provost for Global Engagement and Online Learning,
DePaul University, [@gmb7863](#)

Stephanie Doscher, Director of Global Learning Initiatives, Florida International
University, [@stephaniesays66](#)

Dawn Wood, Dean of International Programs, Kirkwood Community College,
[@dawnrenzewood](#)

12:40 PM Participant Q&A

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Bios



Mohamed Abdel-Kader is the Executive Director of the Stevens Initiative at the Aspen Institute. He previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for International and Foreign Language Education at the US Department of Education. In that role, Mohamed was responsible for encouraging the study of foreign languages and the study of the cultures of other countries at the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary levels in the United States. He is a Truman National Security Fellow and is the author of a children's book about stereotypes. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Clemson University, a Master's degree in Higher Education from Vanderbilt University, and an MBA from Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business. Mohamed is a Trustee of the Longview Foundation for International Education and World Affairs.



GianMario Besana is a Vincent de Paul Professor in the College of Computing and Digital Media and currently serves as Associate Provost for Global Engagement and Online Learning at DePaul University in Chicago, IL, USA. His portfolio comprises the internationalization process of the institution and its online learning operations. Under his guidance, DePaul's faculty training program for online teaching was recognized in 2012 with the Sloan-C award for best faculty development program for online teaching in the United States. DePaul University currently offers over twenty degree programs fully online, and it regularly schedules more than 13% of its total credit hours fully online. The two sides of GianMario's portfolio recently came together in the creation of the Global Learning Experience (GLE)

program, a virtual exchange initiative aimed at supporting DePaul's faculty members who wish to open their classrooms to technology-facilitated learning experiences at a distance, in partnership with institutions all over the world. In collaboration with DePaul's Center for Teaching and Learning and Information Services, GianMario established a university wide virtual exchange initiative, including a professional development workshop for instructors, that has attracted national and international attention as a model for institutional support of virtual exchange. DePaul has offered over 70 courses with GLE projects, in collaboration with institutions in 23 different countries. GianMario has facilitated workshops on institutional approaches to virtual exchange at UNESP (Sao Paulo Brazil), UFPE (Recife, Brazil), Clemson University (SC), St. John's University (Queens, New York, NY), Université catholique de Louvain (Louvain La Neuve, Belgium), and has presented on the topic of virtual exchange at several conferences (COIL 2014, 2016, 2018, AACU 2016, FAUBAI 2017, 2018, AIEA 2019). GianMario earned his Ph.D. in Mathematics at the University of Notre Dame, IN, after completing his bachelor degree, also in Mathematics, at the Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy. He has published widely in the field of algebraic geometry, applications to computer vision, and computer science education. GianMario is an alumnus of the first edition of the Senior International Officers Academy of the Association for International Education Administrators (AIEA), serves on the Leadership Development Committee of the AIEA and is a co-facilitators of the AIEA Senior Advisors Program.



Dr. Stephanie Doscher is a higher education leader who partners with colleagues and institutions to achieve bold goals for learning and visions for change. She is co-author of *Making Global Learning Universal: Promoting Inclusion and Success for All Students* (Stylus & NAFSA, 2018), a comprehensive handbook for engaging all undergraduates in collaborative global problem solving with diverse others. Stephanie currently serves as Director of Florida International University's institution-wide Global Learning for Global Citizenship initiative and is Program Evaluator for FIU's Title VI-funded Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean National Resource Center. Stephanie researches, writes, speaks, and consults on topics related to integrative curricular and co-curricular development and higher education leadership. Her recent work focuses on the integral relationship between global learning, diversity, and the production and exchange of knowledge across borders, as well the promotion of transformational organizational change through collective impact. Stephanie's recent articles can be found in *Peer Review*, *Diversity & Democracy*, and the International Association of Universities' *Handbook of Internationalisation of Higher Education*. Rubrics she developed for performance assessment of students' global learning are used around the world and are cited as part of the OECD PISA global competence framework.



Dawn Wood serves as the Dean of International Programs for Kirkwood Community College. With over 20 years of experience in international education, Ms. Wood is responsible for forwarding the international vision and global commitment of Kirkwood Community College. The International Programs area at Kirkwood requires her direction in the area of international partnerships, international student services, international admission and recruitment, study abroad programming, intercultural exchange, international grant management, and international curriculum and faculty development. Ms. Wood graduated with a Bachelor's degree in International Business and Psychology from the University of Northern Iowa. She also holds a Master's Degree in International Management with an emphasis in International Education and Training from the School for International Training. Ms. Wood has experience living and working abroad in both Denmark and the Czech Republic and has travelled extensively throughout the world in her work. She has served as a leader and presented at many international conferences including involvement in several international education organizations including NAFSA: Association of International Educators, Phi Beta Delta, Professional International Educators Roundtable, StudyIowa, and Community Colleges for International Development and Global Education Network.

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The Stevens Initiative is an international effort to build global competence for young people in the United States and the Middle East and North Africa by growing and enhancing the field of virtual exchange: online, international, and collaborative learning.