

Agenda

Virtual Exchange: Providing International Opportunities for Community College Students June 20, 2019

- 12:00pm **Opening Remarks**
Mohamed Abdel-Kader, Executive Director, The Stevens Initiative, The Aspen Institute, [@MAKtweeter](#)
- 12:10pm **Panel Discussion**
Mohamed Abdel-Kader, Executive Director, The Stevens Initiative, The Aspen Institute, [@MAKtweeter](#)
Jim Bensley, Director, International Services and Service Learning, and Humanities Instructor, Northwestern Michigan College, [@nmc_tc](#)
Sheila C. Lucas, M.A., Director, Health Sciences Advisement Office and Instructor, American Sign Language 1 and 2, Santa Fe College, [@SantaFeCollege](#)
Sherry Tshibangu, Professor, Monroe Community College, State University of New York, [@stshibangu](#)
- 12:40pm **Participant Q&A**

Panelist 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.



Jim Bensley serves as the director of International Services and Service Learning Services at Northwestern Michigan College. He is responsible for internationalization of the curriculum, development of study abroad opportunities, student focused international events, and academic service learning. In his previous position as director of Admissions, he served as PDSO and as the international student advisor. Under his leadership, the college has developed international partnerships, designed academic programs, created a Global Endorsement, and sent over 400 students to 17 different countries. Jim is a member of the Executive Board for the Midwest Institute for International/Intercultural Education and also holds a seat on the Community College for International Development (CCID) Senior International Officer Executive Board. In addition, Jim teaches in the humanities discipline where he offers a course in World Cultures which he integrated with a virtual exchange component in 2016. He holds a bachelor's degree in Education and masters in Interdisciplinary Technology.

Sheila Lucas, M.A., is the Director of the Health Sciences Advisement Office and an American Sign Language instructor at Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida. For 29 years, she has served community college students in the areas of academic advisement, retention services, instruction, disability support services, sign language interpreting, college leadership and grant-funded projects. Her professional affiliations include the national Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf and the Florida Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. In 2017, she travelled with a team to the Al-Amal School for the Deaf, located in the Palestinian city of Qalqilya, as part of a virtual exchange project funded by the Stevens Initiative and the U.S. Department of State.

Sherry Tshibangu has taught business courses at Monroe Community College (MCC), State University of New York for the past sixteen years. She teaches fully online and face-to-face. Tshibangu is passionate about teaching in both learning environments. Sherry has been the recipient of several awards and fellowships related to online teaching and learning. She serves as a SUNY Online Teaching Ambassador and is the recipient of the 2019 Dr. Wesley T. Hanson Award for Teaching Excellence. Additionally, Tshibangu was awarded two fellowships by SUNY's Center for Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL): 2017 Stevens Initiative for the Middle East North Africa (MENA) and the 2016 Mexico-USA Multistate Program (MCP). Professor Tshibangu is currently in her fourth year of a virtual exchange initiative with Dr. Christine McCoy, at the Universidad del Caribe in Cancun, Mexico. Tshibangu believes that the virtual classroom has limitless possibilities and a global reach. Her students have had the opportunity to work with and learn from students in the Middle East and Mexico.

Join the Conversation! **@StevensInit #virtualexchange**

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.