



Attracting and Supporting International Students in a difficult sociopolitical environment

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SIUE Profile



- PUI; Large Masters Granting Institution
 - 50 Master's programs, EdD, DNP, 4 cooperative PhD programs with SIUC
 - Undergraduate Enrollment: 12,000
 - Graduate Enrollment: 2000
 - Top public, masters institution in Midwest for research expenditures
 - Mission
 - Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is a student-centered educational community dedicated to communicating, expanding and integrating knowledge. In a spirit of collaboration enriched by diverse ideas, our **comprehensive and unique array of undergraduate and graduate programs** develops professionals, scholars and leaders who shape a changing world.



Edwardsville, IL

- Typical Midwest town
 - Population 25,000
 - Main street was part of Route 66
 - Primarily a bedroom community for St. Louis
 - SIUE is the largest employer and is the primary driver of the local economy
 - Revitalized downtown

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE



Support from who?

- University support
- Local business support
- Local government support
- Community support

Do I feel safe? Am I welcome? Will there be someone I can turn to for help?

Support = recruitment (or at least I hope so)

Spring 2017 Incidence

- Two incidence during the spring semester moved SIUE to re-think support for international students
- Immigration and Custom Enforcement Officers (ICE) showed up to an on-campus, university apartment in search of a student who had left the university six months earlier
 - ICE Officers did not notify campus police prior to showing up
 - ICE Officers flashed badges; insisted on searching the apartment without a warrant
 - The students, feeling intimidated, allowed the officers entry
 - They did not know they had the right to deny entry
 - They didn't know they could call campus police for support to preserve their rights; even if the ICE officers had a warrant, campus police would review it for validity and make sure the the warrant is executed within its limits

Spring 2017 Incidence

- Second Incidence occurred at the downtown bus stop
 - An international student was waiting for a bus when a local resident began verbally harassing her
 - The harassment continued through the time the student's bus arrived
 - The local resident followed the student to board the same bus
 - The bus driver seeing the ongoing harassment had the moral sense and courage to deny the local residence entry on to the bus

Spring Sessions

- Sessions were held shortly after these incidences
 - Directed at both the university community and international students
 - Legal counsel with expertise in immigration
 - Talked about international student's rights and who to contact for legal advice or support
 - Campus police officer
 - Talked about calling campus police as a supportive resource
 - Talked about support for being safe on and off campus, such as calling for a campus escort after dark and using the RAVE Guardian App available through the university
 - Talked about bystander intervention – how to safely defuse or de-escalate a situation when someone is being harassed
- These sessions are repeated and more widely advertised this fall
 - Advocating for community training in bystander intervention
 - Advocating for #youarewelcomehere signs in business windows to identify them as safe spaces
 - Advocating for YouTube videos to highlight these actions

Sustainable and Seamless Support



- Proposal being implemented this fall by the Office of International Affairs for enhancing retention and supporting recruitment and admissions
- Communication begins upon application from International Recruitment and Admissions, that includes information and offers of support services
- Continuous pre-arrival communications upon enrollment from International Affairs
- Pick-up and arrival support program; brief orientation; assistance with check-in and university procedures; assistance with general needs; and 24/7 support to turn to the first days after arrival for any needs
- For retention, systematic outreach and communication throughout the first year

Sustainable and Seamless Support



- Ramp up the Global Ambassador Program
 - Student organization; pairs up “buddies” that meet twice a month to forge intercultural friendships to ease cultural transitions
- Ramp up the International Hospitality Program
 - Community families that “host” international students; provide social and cultural connections;
- Continuing sessions addressing legal rights, legal contacts, personal safety, bystander intervention, campus police support
- Respond quickly to national and international events affecting students