

AIEA Town Hall Discussion

Thursday, April 8, 2021

Presenters: Karin Sandler, Bailian Li, Susan Chuang

This is a record of chat conversations during the conference call

From Linda Hasunuma : Hi, Center for the Advancement of Teaching at Temple University, Philadelphia

From Susan Jagendorf-Sobierajski : Hello from Susan Jagendorf-Sobierajski SUNY Cobleskill

From Anna Marshall : Greetings from Anna Marshall of Penn State Global Program

From Rachel Rui - University of Tennessee Knoxville : Hi, Rachel Rui from the Center for Global Engagement at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Great to see everyone here.

From Ada Li : Hello from Bryant University U.S.-China Institute

From Darla Deardorff : Hello everyone and welcome to this partnered Town Hall Discussion today. Thank you to New Mind Education for partnering with AIEA on today's Town Hall.

From Darla Deardorff : For today's Town Hall, please do "rename" yourself by adding your institutional/organizational affiliation with your name (by clicking on the 3 dots in your box)

From Darla Deardorff : Today's Town Hall is being recorded and the chat transcript will be made available. Please be sure to post questions for today's speakers and for each other in the chat (instead of unmuting or raising hand function). You are welcome to share your insights/questions/comments/resources here in chat as we learn from and with each other.

From Nicole Tami : These questions vary depending on campus size and size of Chinese student population

From Nicole Tami : Integration is only a problem when there are large Chinese student cohorts on campus

From Victoria Hudak - UC Santa Cruz : I feel these challenges vary in salience during different times of the year at our institution

From Darla Deardorff : @Nicole-thanks for sharing that insight about size of cohort and @Victoria, thanks for sharing your thoughts on the challenges which may indeed vary by time of year...

From Darla Deardorff : To all: what other challenges/barriers have your Chinese students encountered?

From Amber Cordell, Emory University : Xenophobia/racism; immigration/visa challenges; travel restrictions; homesickness/cultural fatigue

From Darla Deardorff : @Amber - thanks for sharing these. To all - I'm curious to what extent you are hearing about experiences with xenophobia/racism from your Chinese students (especially recently)?

From Amber Cordell, Emory University : I'm in Atlanta where the recent salon shootings took place. Even if students themselves haven't been targeted, they may still be afraid for their safety and wonder if they are next because of their race/ethnicity/citizenship.

From Amber Cordell, Emory University : Some of them are studying from abroad and are dealing with time zone differences on top of everything else.

From Huajing Maske-UKY : Appreciate Dr. Li and Amber Cordell's mention about the Anti-Asian hate environment

From Jeet Joshee : The level of concern about safety among Asian students (not just Chinese) are high in recent months.

From Amber Cordell, Emory University : @Jeet, definitely agree.

From Rachel Rui : @Jeet, ^^

From Ada Li-Bryant University : @Jeet, agreed!

From Darla Deardorff : From Dr. Li: focus on students' success and engage international students as global citizens and for their own global learning

From Richard S -Penn State : Yes, Chinese students at my University are concerned about incidents of hate and bias against them. Regardless if they think they personally may be at risk it is a weight they are carrying

From Darla Deardorff : From Dr. Li: For success- 1) English proficiency - speaking and writing academically 2) navigating US education system, including active learning styles and 3) navigating culture

From Darla Deardorff : Given key role of Chinese parents - how do your schools connect with parents?

From Ada Li-Bryant University : We have WeChat group and orientation as well.

From Jeet Joshee : We are planning a town hall for our incoming students and their parents.

From Ada Li-Bryant University : We also have Parents Visiting program that parents could visit our campus

From Huajing Maske-UKY : The navigate culture part is more important in this anti-Asia environment as it is hard for Chinese students to identify micro aggression against them

From Ling LeBeau : I absolutely like Dr. Li's points. In my opinion, institutions have put lots of efforts in engaging Chinese students into the campus and community. We need to develop more strategies and initiatives to help students with academic success. - Ling LeBeau, Syracuse University

From Anna Marshall - Penn State : At Penn State, our orientation includes modules of American academic culture, academic integrity workshop, and supporting resources (mentoring program, learning center, etc.), but knowing the difference is one thing, it does take time for students to adapt to a new learning style.

From Kim Henderson-The University of Tulsa : Where can we find the handbook?

From Krista Holobar : <https://global.ncsu.edu/teaching-international-students/>

From Wes Young - UC Davis : Even with good language skills, being bilingual is not the same as being bicultural...

From Darla Deardorff : @Wes - excellent point. Language alone is not enough for intercultural competence

From Huajing Maske-UKY : Totally agree with Wes

From Ling LeBeau : At Syracuse University, we communicate with Chinese students' parents on a regular basis. In my college, I host parents' meeting a few times a semester. I am currently developing parents newsletter for all international students' parents.

From Neal McCrillis : At the University of Illinois Chicago we in the Office of Global Engagement worked with the Office of Diversity to create the "Academically Supporting International Students" online module for UIC instructors. It is one of more than a dozen modules being developed for the Inclusive Classroom Initiative.

From Darla Deardorff-AIEA : From Susan - important to know about resources and how to navigate/use those

From Darla Deardorff-AIEA : Key insights: Help students re-define what success is, examine cultural perspectives (including expectations), remember that relationships matter, realize parents' role in education/student development - thanks so very much for sharing these insights, Susan!

From Darla Deardorff-AIEA : To all: What other insights can you share in regarding to supporting Chinese students? (Especially in dealing with the current anti-Asian environment/climate?)

From Ling LeBeau : A clearly mapped out success plan is critical to support Chinese students, which could combine academic, career, and personal development expectations.

From Wes Young - UC Davis : I think most international students do not have the historical context to understand race relations in the US, and the current discussions related to diversity, equity, and inclusion...This context would help Chinese and other international students

From Huajing Maske-UKY : Bring them to the most update culture that is going on in the American society, for example, the Back Lives Matter and racial relations in the US. At the University of Kentucky, our Office of China Initiatives work with College of A&S to develop 9 twenty minute Modules that are in placed the Canvas for Chinese students and other international students

From Ling LeBeau : At Syracuse, we host workshops, seminars, and group discussions to support Asian students. We also have a hotline for students to report incidents.

From Huajing Maske-UKY : To include International Asian students in the university's DEI effort

From Amber Cordell, Emory University : We have been collaborating with the Counseling Center to offer support sessions specifically for international students. Tomorrow we are partnering with the campus police to have a safety chat for international students. The police created a handout for staying safe. We have a dedicated webpage regarding solidarity and programs/resources in these challenging times.

From Darla Deardorff-AIEA : @Ling @Wes @Huajing@Amber - thanks so much for sharing. Do you or others have specific examples of initiatives or programs to help support Chinese students in better understanding the racism contexts within the US?

From Huajing Maske-UKY : At UKY, we have invited high profile speakers such as ABC World News' Juju Chang and other speakers to speak on anti-Asian bashing during Covid. We just finished another panel discussion that include Chinese student panelist to discuss the Anti-Asian hate and how we can support students

From Ling LeBeau : @Darla, Syracuse has a first year course, 1 credit, that teaches DEIA, mandatory. There are some talks about racism for international students. We should do more certainly.

From Huajing Maske-UKY : @Darla. Question: what are the recommendations to the universities to messaging to Chinese students and their families regarding the Fall semester

based on the uncertain visa and immigration regulations and the travel ban currently still in place.

From Wes Young - UC Davis : Hi Darla, We have only just begun to address the issue of historical context for international students. We realize that even for us who grew up in the US--depending on our age--we have a lot to learn about DEI issues the way they are approached today.

From Richard S -Penn State : Last year we hosted a "The First Time I Realized I was Racialized" even where both BIPOC domestic students and international students who have become aware of their race in the US talked about their experience with race in a panel discussion. The recording is a tool to help international students understand race in the US

From Richard S -Penn State : This is a lot more to do

From Amber Cordell, Emory University : <https://iss.emory.edu/about/news/2021/statement-against-antiasian-violence.html>

From Anna Marshall - Penn State : We had large turnout at our weekly Chinese parents webinar last year. This year we will also do monthly Mandarin webinar to reach out to parents and students

From Huajing Maske-UKY : From last fall, University of Kentucky under our Office of China Initiatives and international center, we have brought 5 different speakers to speak in Chinese student success with Dr. Yiyi Ma from Syracuse and other speakers

From Wai Fun (Christina) Wong - UC Davis : @Darla - In my past work experience, we collaborated with campus police to provide personal safety and self defense course for the international students. Many of them do not know how to reach under emergency situation.

From Darla Deardorff-AIEA : What a great discussion thus far! Thanks so much to all for being part of this discussion and especially to those who've shared here in chat. Please do keep sharing ideas/resources/suggestions on supporting Chinese students

From Darla Deardorff-AIEA : AIEA is so pleased to be partnering on today's Town Hall. If you're not familiar with AIEA, we invite you to learn more at www.aieaworld.org and to join AIEA as a member.

From Amber Cordell, Emory University :
https://equityandinclusion.emory.edu/_includes/documents/anti-asian-violence-resource-guide-2021

From Huajing Maske-UKY : At UKY, we have worked with our Chinese partners who receive our Chinese students to their campus to take our online classes while at the same time enjoy some kind of campus life and get out of their own home. We call this program UK GlobalGateway

From Huajing Maske-UKY : I meant the Chinese students who are stuck in China due to the pandemic.

From Darla Deardorff-AIEA : Please type in any questions here in chat. Note that AIEA's next Town Hall Discussion will be on April 29 on "First 100 Days of Biden Administration Policy"

From Ling LeBeau : Any institution here that encourages Chinese students to apply for visa in a 3rd country?

From Darla Deardorff-AIEA : For details on this and other AIEA programs, please go to www.aieaworld.org

From Huajing Maske-UKY : @Ling We have students going through Singapore. The expenses via agent is 50,000RMB

From Michael Chen : Wow, that's US\$8000!

From Huajing Maske-UKY : Some of our students chose to go through Singapore to join us on campus. We did not recommend that to the students.

From Huajing Maske-UKY : Absolutely ! Hefty price! The agents just came out overnight and are ripping the students and their families off. This is a terrible equity issue for Chinese students due to the US government travel ban

From Cindy--FHSU : Does anyone wish to address how you are helping Chinese students with the decision about taking the vaccine before they return to China?

From Darla Deardorff-AIEA : Thanks so much to New Mind Education for partnering with AIEA on today's Partnered Town Hall Discussion, thanks so much to our speakers and to all of you for being here today!