

Developing Stockton’s Sustainable and Transformative Global Partnerships

This proposal aims to develop and promote Stockton’s capacity in global networks of learning, discovery, engagement, and collaboration.

Submitted by:

Dr. JY Zhou, Interim Director of Global Engagement

Dr. Tait Chirenje, Professor of Environmental Studies

Dr. Arnaldo Cordero-Roman, Associate Professor of Spanish

Dr. Daniel Moscovici, Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Geology

Project Background and Goals

Being one of six key areas of internationalization, collaboration and partnership is critical to the success of internationalization (ACE, 2017). Over the past years, Stockton has signed many Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with a variety of overseas institutions in different countries. The purpose of an MOU is to establish a partnership between Stockton and another institution to promote collaborations, including but not limited to the following five major areas:

1. Joint educational, training, and/or research activities.
2. Exchange of invitations to scholars for lectures, visits, and sharing of experiences.
3. Exchange of invitations to scholars for participation in conferences, symposia, and seminars.
4. Exchange of information in fields of interest to both parties.
5. Exchange of faculty, research personnel, and graduate and undergraduate students for study and research.

We had hoped to develop collaborations with overseas institutions and position Stockton in a global context; however, few real collaborations actually grew out of our existing MOUs so far.

Currently, most of Stockton students study abroad via third-party providers, while study abroad via exchange partnerships provides students the great opportunity to study abroad at the partner institution with paying tuition and fees of their home institution. They just need to pay housing and meals while studying at the partner institution. Students can also study at the partner institutions for a longer period of time, usually at least one semester or one year. This model has proven to be a much more affordable and effective approach. With all these MOUs at hand, we send students to only two partner institutions now - CQ University in Australia and Universidad Del Rosario in Colombia. Faculty-led study abroad program should be another outcome from these partnerships, while we have very few programs grow out of these MOUs in the past.

Students’ research and internship is a rigorous component of inclusive student success. These MOUs enables Stockton students to have the opportunity to explore and use valuable and unique resources at our partner institutions that was not available to them before. Partnerships provides valuable and sustainable resources to faculty and students in various disciplines and geographical locations. Even though we have these MOUs, currently we do not have these joint research or internship opportunities for our students.

Faculty engagement is a key driver of successful internationalization, and MOUs provides faculty the opportunity to expand their research and teaching through faculty exchange, and collaboration, and communications with partnership universities. Many MOUs were initiated by our faculty, but after their initial visit, projects, or exchange, most of the MOUs remains dormant till expiration dates.

In terms of collaborations and partnerships, we did not provide a great service utilizing these MOUs. The MOUs between Stockton and international institutions are a valuable resource to Stockton, but the entire Stockton community is not aware of Stockton's global partners and, if they are, how to best utilize the partnership to achieve student learning or research goals needs more attention on campus.

Lacking accurate and updated data on MOUs is another challenge on campus. Currently, no single office is collecting, examining, and following up with our MOUs. Existing signed MOUs are scattered in various offices throughout the campus, including the Office of Global Engagement, the Provost Office, Academic Schools, and individual faculty members. This can be a critical compliance issue for Stockton in managing these mutually agreed collaboration and legalized documents. Therefore, there is no data on outcomes of our MOUs so far.

Consequently, it is timely and necessary for us to examine, evaluate, and explore approaches to better use this heavily underutilized resource for Stockton to develop global networks and to explore various opportunities to provide a better service to our students, faculty, and institution.

The primary goals of the proposal include:

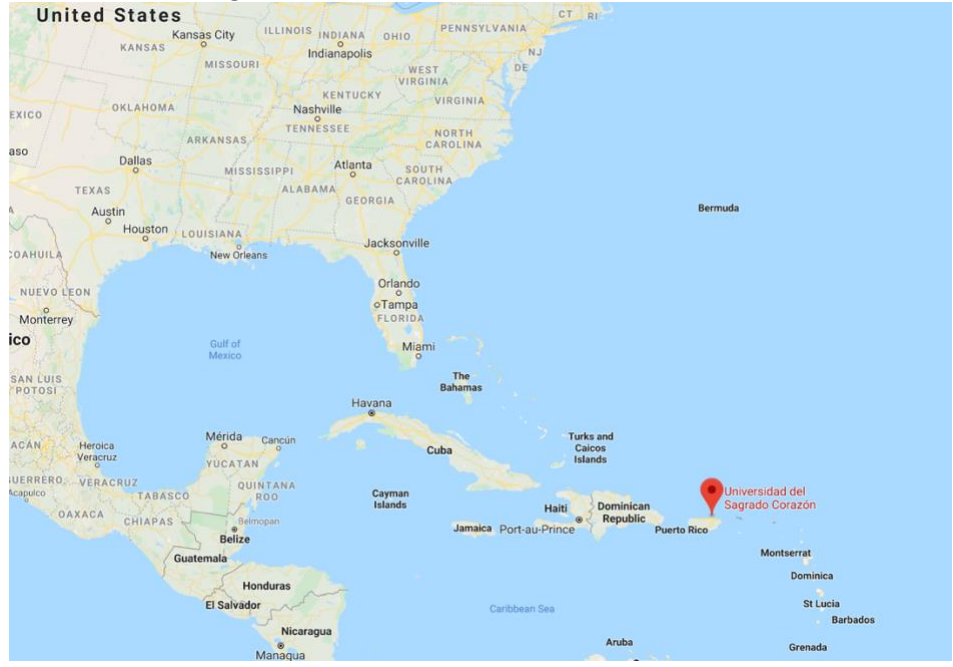
1. Assessing current status and foci of collaboration with global partners
2. Identifying a portfolio of specific global partners that provide best services to meet our faculty and students' needs, including geographic locations, local outreaches, collaborative resources, and financial sustainability
3. Developing model approaches and projects to engage with global partners
4. Creating and maintaining an active, deep, sustainable, and transformative global network for Stockton students and faculty

Project Description

Global partnership is an outward process of positioning Stockton University in global networks of learning, discovery, and engagement. We need careful planning, deliberate action, and attention to quality, depth, and sustainability.

In fall 2019 and spring 2020, Dr. Zhou will collect existing MOUs, examine their status and past practices, and communicate with individual global partner to explore potential collaboration interests and goals with our partners. An accurate and updated list of Stockton's global partners will be shared on the Office of Global Engagement website: <https://stockton.edu/global-engagement/>.

Meanwhile, we want to explore best practices that align with priorities of Stockton's new Strategic Plan and five areas of collaboration established in an MOU. Therefore, we propose the following four pilot projects.

Pilot Project 1: Short-term faculty seminar in Puerto Rico	
Global Partner	Universidad del Sagrado Corazón, Puerto Rico 
Lead faculty	Dr. Arnaldo Cordero-Roman
Stockton Strategic Plan focus	Teaching and Learning
Collaboration focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint educational, training, and/or research activities • Exchange of faculty, research personnel, and graduate and undergraduate students for study and research
Budget request	\$16,440

Brief description:

A group (8) of Stockton faculty from various disciplines and two (2) facilitators will have a four-day summer institute in Universidad del Sagrado Corazón, our global partner in Puerto Rico. The group will stay on our partner's campus and communicate with their faculty and staff to discuss, share, and learn various pedagogical approaches in their disciplines and potential collaborations for our students and faculty.

Before the seminar, faculty will submit their applications stating their potential collaboration goals with the partner institution, including designing new courses, developing faculty-led programs, co-teach courses, or co-write grants, etc. During the seminars, the facilitators will invite our partner institution’s faculty and staff to participate and facilitate intercultural and interdisciplinary discussions. After the institute, participants are expected to develop global perspectives and to design curricular and co-curricular activities with the global partner in various disciplines.

We expect to have the following outcomes:

- developing mutual-beneficial and meaningful short-term faculty exchange programs, including visiting scholars in various disciplines and visiting artists in graphic arts and theater, etc.
- recruiting potential students to enroll at Stockton’s graduate and undergraduate programs in Hospitality, Political Science, Social Work, Health Sciences, natural sciences, criminal justice, and education, etc.


Budget details:

The budget is based on the projected dates on June 7-10, 2020

- Flight: \$355/person: Philadelphia to San Juan, Puerto Rico
- Hotel: \$369: \$123/person x 3 day: At Wind Chimes Boutique Hotel close to the campus
- Food: \$220/person: per diem \$55/day x 4 day
- Summer faculty stipend: \$1,200/person (\$300/day)
- Other: \$100/person: local transportation

Total cost: \$2,244/person * 10 persons = \$22,440

- Academic Affairs will cover: \$600/person * 10 persons = \$6,000
- 2020 committee will cover: \$1500/person * 10 persons = \$16,440

Pilot Project 2: Faculty and Student Exchange	
Global Partner	University of Sunshine Coast, Australia 
Lead faculty	Dr. Dan Moscovici
Stockton Strategic Plan focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity and Inclusion • Inclusive Student Success • Teaching and Learning
Collaboration focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint educational, training, and/or research activities • Exchange of faculty, research personnel, and graduate and undergraduate students for study and research
Budget request	\$5,000


Brief description:

Stockton and University of Sunshine Coast (USC) faculty will work together to develop faculty and student exchange programs between our institutions.

Serving as an invited lecturer at USC in August 2019, Dr. Moscovici had meetings with multiple faculty about partnerships, study abroad opportunities, and research, etc. A USC faculty will visit Stockton in November 2019 and present to Stockton courses about climate change in Australia. building on these visits, we expect to establish a formalized faculty exchange program, including faculty visiting each other’s campus with lecturing, joint research, and class visits. Faculty will develop and lead short-term faculty-led trips to each other’s campus.

Budget details and timelines:

- November 2019: A USC faculty will visit Stockton, fully funded by the USC.
- Summer 2020: A Stockton faculty will visit USC to discuss potential student exchange programs between Stockton and USC. The Stockton faculty will meet with USC administrators and faculty in Environmental Studies, Study Abroad Program, and local government and NGOs to plan the curriculum, internship, and service-learning components of this student exchange program.
 - Stockton faculty's airfare, meals, hotel, and local transportation: \$5,000
 - \$1,500 - Flight - 1500 (out of EWR, but 1900 out of PHL)
 - \$970 - M&I Per diem = 97/day x 10 days = 970
 - \$1,404 - Lodging per diem = 156/night x 9 nights = 1404
 - \$500 - ground transport and parking
 - \$626 - Company/vendor/entrance fees

Pilot Project 3: Interdisciplinary Student Research/Internship	
Global Partner	City of Knowledge Foundation, Panama 
Lead faculty	Dr. Tait Chirenje
Stockton Strategic Plan focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive Student Success • Teaching and Learning
Collaboration focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint educational, training, and/or research activities • Exchange of faculty, research personnel, and graduate and undergraduate students for study and research
Budget request	\$6,000


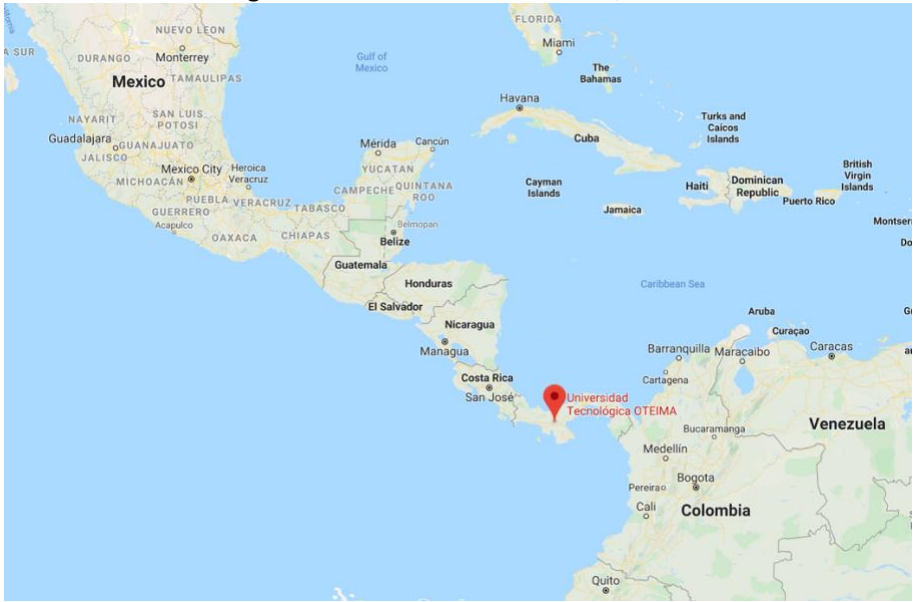
Brief description:

City of Knowledge Foundation, our partner in Panama, has the access, both to housing, innovation services, academic facilities and introduction to Panama activities, and to their internal network of 200 associated academic, scientific and business entities, and to other entities of the same kind in the country – such as OTEIMA University (Universidad Tecnológica Oteima – Formado Líderes) and the Batipa Field Institute in Chiriquí.

Stockton students from various schools, including Business, Marine Science, Environmental Studies, Languages and Cultures, will work with faculty and students from OTEIMA university and the Batipa Field Institute in Chiriquí to develop research projects and internship on the financial and environmental sustainability of Panama.

Budget details and timeline:

- Summer 2020 Pilot: Two Stockton faculty from two programs will take a group of students to Panama and they will stay and work at the Batipa Field Station with local students and communities.
- Two faculty's airfare, hotel, meals, local transportation on the faculty-led program: \$6,000

Pilot Project 4: Global Collaborative Curricular Design	
Global Partner	<p>Federal University of Technology - Parana, Brazil</p>  <p>Universidade Tecnológica Oteima – Formado Líderes, Panama</p> 
Lead faculty	<p>Dr. Tait Chirenje</p>

Stockton Strategic Plan focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive Student Success • Teaching and Learning
Collaboration focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint educational, training, and/or research activities • Exchange of faculty, research personnel, and graduate and undergraduate students for study and research
Budget request	\$5,000

Brief description:

Stockton faculty will work with faculty from the Federal University of Technology - Parana in Brazil, and Universidad Tecnológica Oteima – Formado Líderes in Panama to co-design and co-teach a course on *Climate Change - Local solutions to a global problem*. Students in all three institutions will take this innovative course together and collaborate on projects to develop global awareness along with their disciplinary knowledge. A unique faculty-led study abroad research/internship component will be integrated into this course: Stockton students will travel to one of two different countries to meet their classmates in person and work on research/internship/service-learning projects in local communities. Faculty and students from the other two institutions will visit and develop research/internship/service-learning projects at Stockton as well.

Budget and timeline:

- Fall 2019 and Spring 2020: Co-designing the course
- Fall 2020: Co-teach the course + study abroad programs
 - Stockton faculty's airfare, hotel, meals, and local transportation on the faculty-led program: \$4,000
 - Faculty from global partner institutions visit Stockton: \$1000

Overall budget request: \$32,440

Collaboration partners at Stockton:

In order to better implement and promote this project, we will work with the following offices:

- Various offices, including the President Office, the Provost Office, individual schools, and individual faculty to collect existing MOUs.
- Office of University Relations and Marketing will design posters, make videos, produce social media feed and news report.
- Office of Student Affairs will share and promote these projects.
- Office of Admissions will be involved in recruiting undergraduate students.

Project outcomes:

We aim to assess and implement collaborations with global partners to create and maintain an active, deep, sustainable, and transformative global network for Stockton students and faculty. The outcomes include but not limited to:

- An accurate and updated global network for Stockton in developing and promoting learning, discovery, engagement, and collaboration
- Best practices in collaborations on the following topics:
 - student study abroad
 - student intern / research abroad
 - faculty exchange
 - faculty-led study abroad programs
 - international student recruitment
- Report and professional development opportunities
 - a report on **Developing Stockton’s Sustainable and Transformative Global Partnerships** to share the status, development, and practices of collaborations and partnerships with the campus
 - professional development presentations and info sessions, such as summer institutes and/or the Day of Scholarship to share and promote practices and experience
 - potential stories and news