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Building Partnerships Between Academic Departments and International Affairs

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ACC 2021 Proposal Description
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This session invites discussion among department chairs and other campus leaders who have an interest in promoting global awareness in your academic programs. The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic is causing significant upheaval in international education, so now is an opportune time to begin building strong relationships between academic departments and International Affairs divisions.

Discussions may include the following topics:

A) Positioning your department to attract international student interest. Universities are seeking ways to attract students while simultaneously exploring new financial models. International student recruitment and global educational partnerships address both of these priorities. In addition to contributing to a globally-minded academic program, strong international student recruitment can boost credit-hour production and provide departments with a global footprint.

B) Supporting or co-sponsoring events with International Affairs. Departments that cannot easily recruit international majors can still become advocates for international exchange on campus. Co-sponsoring events provides students and faculty with opportunities to share culture in a supportive environment. It can also help departments establish or strengthen their own Study Abroad initiatives.

C) Joining or establishing Global Learning Communities on campus. For campuses that have a Global Learning Community (GLC), academic departments can provide guest speakers or special presentations. Even if your university does not have a formal GLC, establishing one can help place your department at the center of the university's international student recruitment and retention efforts.

D) Providing mentorship to International Affairs (IA) instructors who may view themselves as outside of traditional faculty or staff communities. IA instructors' work may often go unnoticed, and their employment classification (such as being hired on short-term contracts) may leave them without a significant voice in faculty or staff matters. Mentoring these educators and recognizing the crucial role they play in preparing students to pursue their degrees is a positive way academic departments can partner with International Affairs.