

**2004-2005**  
**Quality Enhancement Program Summary**  
**Office of Institutional Research,**  
**Planning and Effectiveness**



**Department:** FLIE    **Award Amount:** \$13,775    **Award Recipient:** FLIE Coordinating Committee

**Project Focus:**

The primary objective of this project is to acquire resources that would allow faculty committee members to develop an intercultural communications course for FLIE majors and to be trained and certified in assessment techniques related to intercultural communication competency.

**Assessment Method:**

Melinda Miller and Masamichi Inoue attended the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) Certification workshop given by the Intercultural Communication Institute in Portland, Oregon December 9-11, 2005. Ms. Miller and Dr. Inoue are now certified to administer the Intercultural Development Inventory in the Intercultural Communications course for FLIE majors. This assessment tool will be used to monitor the intercultural development of students in the course, and can be used for program-wide evaluation.

**Progress as of May 2006, as provided by Gail Hoyt:**

On Monday, March 20 Patricia Paulsell and Inge Steglitz, both at Michigan State, conducted a workshop on Intercultural Communication. The intent of the workshop was to generate dialog, but also to specifically work on the intercultural communication course. Over thirty faculty and professional staff attended over the course of the two-day workshop.

Two committee members attended a workshop in Portland, Oregon that provided training and certification in a specific intercultural communication assessment technique. The next stage and continued work involves the development of an undergraduate course in intercultural communications. In March we held an Intercultural Communication Workshop with the goal of engaging faculty and professional staff in a joint discussion of culture and its potentially integrative role in the FLIE program. A portion of the workshop was also devoted to developing the intercultural communication course. In the fall 2006

semester the course will be offered for the first time as an A&S300 course.

The Intercultural Communication Course course considers how we might construct an open space of intercultural communication in which voices from diverse perspectives can be expressed and heard. Examining issues that arise from our already globalized everyday life, this course explores ideas and skills for effectively functioning in multicultural settings, with particular attention to the needs of FLIE students. Topics relevant to FLIE majors include economic globalization (Does global capitalism really bring cultures together?), international political relations (Why were "French" fries renamed as the "Freedom" fries in the Congress cafeteria before the Iraq War?) -- will be thus specifically dealt with in reference to the problems of intercultural communication. An assessment tool will also be introduced for measuring students' cultural proficiency. Taken as a whole, this course will provide FLIE students with a critical entry point into the complexity of intercultural communication at the crossroads of culture, power, and identity.

**Future Plans:**

In March 2007 we will hold a final follow-up workshop for assessment and reflection regarding the course. At this point we will finalize plans for sustained integration of the course into the FLIE curriculum.