Parents Today

• Why are parents involved
  – Technology
  – Finances
  – Students go to parents for advice

• Top concerns
  – Safety
  – Careers
  – Finances
Theories

• **Student Development Theories**
  – Students need independence for success

• **Family Systems Theory**
  – Families are all interconnected

• **Attachment Theory**
  – Family support provides freedom to explore
FERPA

• How does the U interact with parents?
  – Messages from different offices
  – Assess underlying messages
    • FERPA
    • Student and family demographics.
Messages from the LAC

• Lead with support services that are available to students abroad

• Value of study abroad
  – Curriculum integration
  – Language a/o intercultural aptitude
  – Student development
  – Career integration
    • Resume builder
    • Campus career center
Messages from the Parent Program

• Print newsletter articles
  – “Parents can help make study abroad successful”
  – “Students benefit from off-campus programs”

• Email newsletter messages
  – Learning Abroad Fair
  – May term courses

• Parents Weekend participation
  – Workshops; information table

• Online website polls
If your student expressed an interest in learning abroad, what would your response be? (October 2013)

- I would support my student: 302
- It depends on how it fits with a timely graduation: 40
- It depends on the location: 51
- I can't afford it: 33
- I would try to dissuade my student: 10
Parent Program Polls

Have you ever traveled internationally? (July 2013)

- Yes, more than once a year: 26
- Never traveled internationally: 31
- At least once, 2-4 years ago: 55
- At least once, 5-10 years ago: 57
- Yes, 10 or more years ago: 91
- At least once, within past 2 years: 106
Global Initiatives for Parents

- Service-learning trip for families
  - Use trusted provider
  - Affordable and short term
  - Collaborative
  - Community service
  - Global vision

- School supply drive
  - Asked parents to bring school supplies to Parents Weekend to go towards educational programming in Guatemala
Targeted Messages

• Comfort levels with learning abroad range
• Parents are as diverse as our students
  – Transfer
  – Commuter
  – First-generation
  – International
  – Low-income
Messages to Students

• Talking to Your Parents online resource
• Talk to parents about:
  – Country choice
  – Program type
  – Length of program
• Participation of academic advisers
  – Recognize how parents can help
  – Encourage student to have conversations
Including Parents in Learning Abroad

- National College Fair
- Prospective student campus events
- Section of website devoted to parents
Learning Abroad Center
Programming for Parents

- Learning Abroad Center
  - Host parent orientation session during student pre-departure orientation
  - Invite Parent Program to present during biannual resident staff workshop
  - Programming teams foster open communication with parents
Learning Abroad Center Programming for Parents

- Parents as education abroad allies
  - Pre-departure
  - During the study abroad program
  - After the student returns home
Learning Abroad Center
Positive Parental Involvement

• They can reinforce our messages

• When a real crisis arises, they will call EA office

• Empowering them early leads to semester-long efficient communication