

Minnesota Study Abroad Re-entry Conference: 2007-Present

A Living Case Study

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Background & History

- Created to fill the void of Re-entry programming offered by individual Colleges and Universities
- Modeled after other successful regional conferences
- Committee
 - Governance Committees
- Hosting Institutions
- Sponsorship



Evolution of Conference

- Range of Keynote Speakers
- Group Reflection/Session
- Schedule Changes
- Cost
- Photo & Academic Poster Contest
- Opportunities Fair
- Rotating Session Topics



WWW.MNRETURNEECONFERENCE.ORG



Rotating Session Examples

Development:

- Teaching, Working & Volunteer Abroad
- Graduate School Abroad
- Int'l Careers Panel
- Volunteer in Twin Cities Panel
- Craft your SA Stories for Interviewing
- Resume Critiques/Session

Reflection:

- Travel Writing
- Reflecting on Cross-cultural Journey
- Are you Lost in the US? come & Talk about it.
- Digging Deeper-Stories & Identity
- Digital Storytelling



Participation: Staff & Students

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
TOTAL STUDENT REGISTRATIONS	51	116	59	106	101	149	166
Committee Members	10	15	27	26	27	24	29
Number of Schools/ Organizations	8	11	16	15	16	16	15
Location of Conference	Macalester	UMN-TC	Bethel	UST	Augsburg	UMN-TC	UST



Student Feedback

“It was a good opportunity to get to meet with others who have had somewhat similar experiences and common global interests. The sessions were informative and it was a great opportunity to connect with others who have studied abroad both from our own individual colleges/universities and others.”



“I loved the chance to be around other people who have studied abroad and are experiencing the same difficulties as me.”



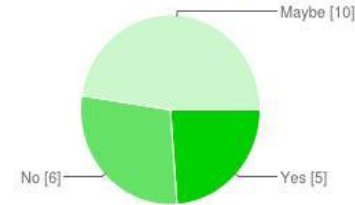
Institutional Feedback

“The most attractive aspect of the conference is to connect our students with students from other institutions who have studied abroad. For a small college, located in a rural area, it is an opportunity to “pierce” the bubble. We like the idea of pulling together resources from a variety of institutions and offer students an interesting keynote speaker and/or a variety of panelists that are unlikely to make it to our campus. We feel that a focused, all or half-day conference presents an opportunity we are unlikely to create on campus.”

“I think having a statewide returnee conference gives students a chance to form that all-important cohort group of peers who have “been there, done that.” They understand each others’ experiences in general, as well as from a “Minnesota” perspective.”

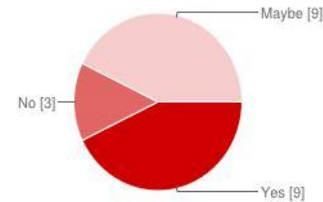
“I like the idea of them meeting people regionally and creating a network. I also like the idea of new ideas coming from our different institutions.”

Would your institution be willing to host a future Returnee Conference?



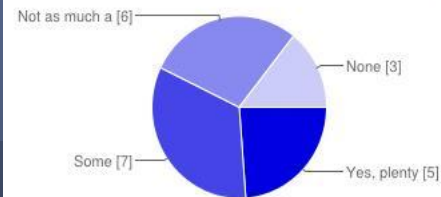
Response	Count	Percentage
Yes	5	24%
No	6	29%
Maybe	10	48%

Would you or a colleague from your institution be willing to serve on the Planning Committee?



Response	Count	Percentage
Yes	9	43%
No	3	14%
Maybe	9	43%

Does your institution offer formal re-entry programming on your own campus?



Response	Count	Percentage
Yes, plenty	5	24%
Some	7	33%
Not as much as I would like	6	29%
None	3	14%

Benefits

- Collaboration across MN to develop re-entry standards
- Shared resources
- Professional development opportunities for staff



Challenges

- Commitment from institutions for committee representation & volunteers
- Recruitment of students
- Funding
- Location



Group Discussion

How could this conference be revised for success?

What has been successful for you for cross-collaboration and student attendance at your institution?

Are we missing successful components to attract students to this conference?

Are there incentives for staff involvement?



Thanks!



MINNESOTA

Study Abroad Returnee

CONFERENCE