

Strengthening Rutgers' SC&I Capacity to Develop & Sustain Global Partnerships

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Abstract:

The longer-term objective of this project is to strengthen the capacity of Rutgers' School of Communication & Information to develop and sustain global initiatives with a focus on research, educational programs, and the professional development of faculty, students, and staff. To this end, a survey of SC&I faculty will be conducted to capture the level of interest of faculty in working on international projects and the types of activities underway or under consideration. Subsequently, interviews will be completed with faculty who have already worked on international projects or are doing so currently, to understand the resources they had or anticipate needing, as well as the challenges they have faced bringing such projects to fruition. To complete a SWOT analysis, these data will be complemented by data from interviews with SC&I leadership and a small number of staff who can play critical support roles for such projects. The design of data collection activities will be informed by conversations with leaders of global initiatives at other Rutgers units, including Rutgers Global, as well as leaders of similar projects at peer institutions. Findings will be discussed with SC&I stakeholders in roundtable events to articulate recommendations for strengthening SC&I's capacity for partnerships and projects with a global orientation. Such events will facilitate the formation of a steering committee to guide the implementation of recommended actions and to explore the possibility of establishing a SC&I Global Initiatives Incubator (GInI) program.

Primary Stakeholders:

- Faculty from all three SC&I departments
- SC&I Dean and Associate Deans
- Leadership of all three SC&I departments
- Academic program directors
- Students and their associations' leadership, as well as honor societies
- SC&I staff (e.g., business office, pre-/post-grant award support personnel)
- Leadership of other schools that SC&I has closer ties to or where there is potential for synergy
- Rutgers Global and institutes/center with a global focus in their activities (e.g., Rutgers Global Health Institute)

Key Steps, Activities, & Timeline:



Draft of a possible logo for SC&I's GInI.

STAGE I (Months 1-2)

Create Inventory of Existing International Initiatives & Establish Interest in Global Partnerships and Projects

STAGE II (Months 3-5)

Interviews with Leaders of Rutgers Units and Peer Institutions with Strong Global Presence

STAGE III (Months 6-8)

Interviews to Determine Resources Needed & SWOT Analysis

STAGE IV (Months 9-10)

Roundtable Conversations: Synthesis and Setting New Goals

STAGE V (Months 11-12)

Establishing SC&I's Global Initiatives Incubator (SC&I GInI)

Effectiveness Measures:

Possible indicators include:

1. Number of participants (a) in survey, (b) in 1-on-1 interviews
2. Number of SC&I community members who will participate in the roundtable conversations planned
3. Commitments to join the SC&I GInI's steering committee
4. Number of faculty participating in SC&I GInI activities
5. Number of international projects initiated (research, educational program-oriented) year after year
6. Number of faculty, students, and staff who have been involved in and/or benefited from an international project
7. Grant applications submitted / won for international projects
8. Number of publications produced through international collaboration (e.g., published with an international partner or enabled/supported by a global initiative).

Communication/Engagement:

- Roundtable conversations and a steering committee created in the context of the SC&I GInI will serve as primary mechanisms for ongoing communication among SC&I stakeholders regarding the unit's global engagement.
- The steering committee could choose to continue to hold regular (annual, semiannual, or quarterly) roundtable conversations with stakeholders after the end of this project and explore other ways to keep SC&I faculty, students, and staff engaged with international work in progress.
- Additionally, to support the project's activities, share findings, and promote engagement over time, a website modeled after that of SC&I's IAPP-Greece Initiative (see: <https://iapp-greece.rutgers.edu/>) will be developed in collaboration with the school's Marketing and Communications Team.

Current Status/Future Directions:

- **Presently:** Conducting informal interviews with SC&I stakeholders and consulting experienced leaders of global partnerships outside of SC&I to establish benchmarks and prepare the ground to launch the project in Fall 2022.
- **Future Goal:** Growing SC&I's global footprint through mutually beneficial partnerships with higher education institutions abroad.