

Bringing Change Back Home Through Reintegration

How do the Vincentian Community Service Office's reintegration practices compare with those of other universities?

Methodology

- An internally created Qualtrics survey was distributed via email to 285 universities nationwide that have service immersion and alternative break programs.
- Additional information was collected through phone interviews with 7 institutions whose programs shared a similar mission to DePaul University.
- Descriptive statistics were calculated for the survey data and open-coding was conducted to find themes and patterns from interview data.

Key Findings

- Of the 43 institutions that completed the online survey, 32 schools (80%) offered post-trip meetings or reunions.
- Student attendance was cited by 5 institutions (71%) as a challenge to the post-immersion engagement process.
- Post-immersion projects were emphasized by 5 institutions (71%) as an important way to promote accountability among students.
- 6 institutions (86%) spoke of the importance of storytelling as a tool for processing re-entry and creating systemic change, while 4 institutions (57%) explicitly named the themes of discernment or vocation in their re-entry process.

Demographics

- Of 285 institutions invited to complete the online survey, 43 (15%) completed the survey.
- Of the 43 institutions that completed the online survey, 14 conducted both international and domestic programs and 11 conducted domestic programs only.
- Of the 23 institutions invited to participate in the phone interview, only 7 institutions (30%) participated.

Plan of Action

- Reframe the orientation around the quarter-long experience rather than focusing on the week of the trip
- Incorporate a post-trip project plan into the final grade that student leaders receive for their ISP 331 class
- Partner with the Explore Your Purpose program to create a supplemental folder that contains post-immersion resources which are based on a vocation and discernment curriculum

Post-Immersion Experiences Offered

