

Discussion Guide

Episode 2: Sandy Skelaney on Leading Students from Awareness to Empathy, Engagement, and Changemaking

About Global Learning

Global learning is the process of diverse people collaboratively analyzing and addressing complex problems that transcend borders (Landorf & Doscher, 2015). Among many student learning outcomes, global learning develops:

- **Global Awareness:** Knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems
- **Global Perspective:** Ability to conduct a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural problems
- **Global Engagement:** Willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving

About this Episode

Sandy Skelaney is Program Director of the Initiative for Gender Violence Prevention in FIU's Center for Women's and Gender Studies. Sandy builds community partnerships and trains the next generation of changemakers in her global learning course, "Sex Trafficking: Building Solutions." If you are teaching a course that focuses on a pervasive social issue and you want to promote hands-on solution making, this episode is for you. Sandy lays out step by step how you can move students from awareness to deep empathy, true collaboration, and innovative problem solving and engagement. A compelling educator and public speaker, Sandy has presented to over 15,000 people in venues varying from prisons to TED Talks, and she consults with US organizations launching and scaling victim-service, public policy, and advocacy initiatives. In 2007, Sandy spearheaded Florida's first coordinated multi-disciplinary response to domestic minor sex trafficking, Project GOLD in Kristi House. This led to the transformation of protocols in dozens

of agencies, passage of the Florida Safe Harbor Act, and the opening of a drop-in center that provides mental health services for hundreds of trafficked children in Miami. Sandy's honors include the prestigious "Women Who Make a Difference" Award from the Junior League of Miami. She holds a BA in Political Science and Women's Studies from CUNY Hunter and an MA in International Relations from Yale University.

Suggested Learning Outcomes

Upon reflection, listeners to this episode will be able to:

- Describe the relationship between global learning and empathy
- Identify a range of skills students need in order to act as changemakers
- Discuss the role of collaboration in global learning and changemaking

Discussion Questions

- How does Skelaney define "engagement?"
- How does Skelaney help students develop an empathetic understanding of sex trafficking victim perspective?
- How does Skelaney develop a global awareness of sex trafficking? How does she enable a global perspective on the issue?
- What changemaking skills do students learn and practice in Skelaney's course?
- How does Skelaney prepare students to collaborate?
- How does Skelaney structure projects?
- In what ways does the design thinking methodology align with global learning?
- How does Skelaney involve community partners in her course?

Suggested Activities

- Have students outline the structure of Skelaney’s course, from the first journaling activity to the final grant proposal pitch project. Challenge them to use this structure to draw a rough sketch of a course devoted to another entrenched social issue.
- Ask listeners to use some of Skelaney’s strategies to revise a group project to make it a true collaboration.
- Have listeners research collaboration resources in their field—books, professional development, online guides, theoretical frameworks, methodologies, etc.

APA (6th edition) Citation

Doscher, S. (Producer/host). (2019, May). *Sandy Skelaney on leading students from awareness to empathy, engagement, and changemaking*. [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <https://globallearningpodcast.fiu.edu/episode-2-sandy-skelaney/>

About the Podcast

“Making Global Learning Universal” is a collection of conversations about engaging diverse perspectives, collaboration, and complex problem solving in higher education—on campus, online, in local communities, and abroad. Episodes are posted seasonally. Guests are from a wide variety of institutions, geographies, and areas of teaching, research, and practice. All episodes are accompanied by show notes, transcripts, and discussion guides to enhance global learning professional development, leadership, and teacher preparation.

The podcast is hosted by [Stephanie Doscher](#), Director of Global Learning Initiatives at Florida International University and co-author of *Making Global Learning Universal: Promoting Inclusion and Success for All*.

The “Making Global Learning Universal” podcast is produced through a partnership between Florida International University’s Office of Global Learning Initiatives, Media Technology Services, and Disability Resource Center.

Episodes, show notes, transcripts, and discussion guides are available at <http://globallearningpodcast.fiu.edu>.

You may subscribe to the “Making Global Learning Universal” [RSS feed](#) or access the podcast via iTunes, Spotify, or [Stitcher](#). “Making

Global Learning Universal” is also listed on [MERLOT](#).

Listener recommendations

“Making Global Learning Universal” is always looking for new guests to join the show and interesting topics to cover. [Email us](#) to make a suggestion!

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Notes

