

Discussion Guide

Episode 4: Alok Deoraj on Introducing Students to Global Public Health

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

On this episode Dr. Alok Deoraj talks with Stephanie about how he prepares highly diverse students in his large enrollment general education global learning course, "Health Without Borders," to actively engage with content in class and in the community. Alok Deoraj is a senior instructor and graduate program director in the department of Environmental Health Sciences in the Stempel College of Public Health at FIU. Dr. Deoraj has more than 20 years of extensive teaching, research and management experience in academic and industry settings. At FIU he teaches undergraduates and Global and Environmental Public Health courses at Master's and Doctoral levels. His current research interest is on the influence of environmental determinants on the timing of the onset of puberty/adolescence. He has published more

than 60 articles and abstracts in peer-reviewed journals, magazines, and books and in the proceedings of professional meetings. Dr. Deoraj also serves as reviewer and academic editor of peer reviewed journals of his area of research.

Suggested Learning Outcomes

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

- Explain how co-curricular learning relates to classroom global learning
- Identify strategies for making a large enrollment introductory global learning course engaging to a wide variety of students
- Describe the benefits of composing teams on the basis of diversity

Discussion Questions

- How is public health a global subject? How is it interdisciplinary?
- How does Deoraj use the diversity of students' knowledge, interests, and experience as a learning resource in his large enrollment class?
- Deoraj says that his purpose in "Health Without Borders" is to enable students to make connections. How does he facilitate connection making?
- Does a co-curricular activity have to be directly related to course content in order to be meaningful? How can students be encouraged to make meaning from their learning outside the classroom?

Suggested Activities

- Deoraj moved from having students make poster presentations over two class days to having them present and comment upon posters online. Challenge listeners to research or devise new strategies for making efficient, effective class presentations.
- Course connections to cocurricular activities are a critical component of “Health Without Borders.” Have listeners choose any course in the curriculum, review the campus activities calendar, and find options for students to make connections.
- At the end of the interview, Deoraj says he’s moving from having students research what makes people sick to researching what makes them healthy. Challenge listeners to think of course topics, essential questions, or research questions they can have students explore from an asset- rather than deficit-based perspective.

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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>.

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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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