

Discussion Guide

Episode 7: Kathleen Stein-Smith on Language Learning and Global Citizenship

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

Dr. Kathleen Stein-Smith is Associate University Librarian and Director of Public Services at Fairleigh Dickenson University. Stein-Smith is a dedicated foreign language educator, language learning advocate, and subject matter expert on the U.S. foreign language deficit and the role of multilingualism in global citizenship. She is the author of three books and numerous articles on foreign language issues. Since January 2015, Stein-Smith has served as the Chair of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) Commission on Advocacy. Her 2013 TEDx talk on the U.S. foreign language deficit has had almost 10,000 views, and her blog, *Language Matters*, has had over 20,000 views. In this episode, Stein-Smith shares numerous practical ideas that faculty and administrators across the institution can use to promote language learning for all. She builds a research-based case for the value of multilingualism, multiple pathways student for language learning,

and multi-stakeholder advocacy for closing the language learning gap.

Suggested Learning Outcomes

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

- Describe the ways in which librarians are important facilitators of global learning
- Identify resources and strategies for language learning advocacy
- Describe the relationship between language learning, global learning, and global citizenship

Discussion Questions

- How does Stein-Smith connect her work as a librarian with her passion, advocacy, and activism for language learning ?
- What is the relationship between language learning and global problem solving?
- What on- and off-campus stakeholder groups can be part of a coalition for language learning advocacy?
- How might colleges and universities support earlier starts for language learning in primary and secondary schools?
- Stein-Smith says, "Languages and cultures are the quintessential examples of interdisciplinarity. They are life." In what ways is this true? Can all disciplines contribute to or benefit from this?
- How can people make languages and cultures part of their daily lives?

Suggested Activities

- Ask listeners to reflect on ways they can promote language learning in the classroom or on campus, advocate for the value of language learning in community or political spheres.
- Have listeners research the number and variety of languages spoken on their campus and in their community, as well as free or low-cost options for language learning.
- Stein-Smith says that about half of U.S. colleges and universities have a language learning requirement for students. Have listeners research the foreign language learning requirement in their institution as well as the history behind the requirement and any threats to it that may be on the horizon.

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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://globallelearningpodcast.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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