

LDRRAC Nomination Supplementary Form

Nominator:

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Key People Involved in International Services and International Services Awareness Week:

Julie McMullin, Vice-Provost (International) – granted permission for nomination.

Rose Aquino, Director and Advisor, International and Exchange Student Centre

IESC staff team: Sandra Pejhil, Earl Blaney, Francesca Mancuso, Fabiana Tepedino, Melissa

Walters, Ashley Kewayosh Samuel, Diana Reynolds

200+ student and community volunteers

Description of the Initiative:

The IESC offers year-round orientation, transition activities, and individual advising to help international students meet new friends, get involved in campus life and become familiar with Canadian culture and our London community. There are ongoing events for newly arrived international students to settle in, adjust to life in London, Canada and at Western while receiving support and meeting new friends. This also opens up opportunities for Canadian community members and students to learn from our International students about different cultures. Key activities include:

- London community outings and tours - including Market tour, picnics in Gibbons Park, winter outings to Boler Mountain, cultural and other tours
- Global Café - weekly opportunity for international and domestic students to meet and connect
- Canada Eh? Transitioning to Canada series - workshops and sessions help new students adjust to life in Canada
- Porch Light Program - community volunteers get together and welcome groups of international female students, offering support, mentorship and a sense of home away from home
- Peer Guide program - Over 200 upper-year Western students volunteer to be matched with new international students to provide support and mentorship throughout their first year at Western. This offers an opportunity for intercultural exchange and close connection to the community through a one-to-one relationship.
- English Conversation Program - Upper-year students volunteer to lead small conversation groups for international students who wish to work on their English Language skills
- Workshops on Job Search Skills and other Career related topics, in partnership with Western's Student Success Centre

- Spouse and family support is provided through the centre to spouses and children of international students
- International Week is held each November to celebrate diversity on campus, offer opportunities for all students to explore other cultures, and inspire students to learn about international opportunities and grow inter-culturally. During 2015 International Week a community cultural tour is being planned for students in coordination with community partners.
- An iWellness website provides outreach and information for international and exchange students to stay healthy physically, mentally and emotionally while in London, including resources on campus and in the community

How has the initiative contributed to promoting London as a welcoming city?

This program promotes education and learning opportunities for International and Exchange students to interact and develop positive relationships on campus and within our London community. It engages community partners and Canadian students in "Global Cafes", job searching and volunteering sessions, trips to downtown and Covent Garden Market. The students and/or partners also get involved in presentations of their own culture through annual Cultural Showcases held during International Week (November) and at the end of the academic year. For 2015, IESC is planning a community Global Café where different community members and cultural groups will be invited to meet students in an informal social setting.

IESC is a constant advocate for diversity, inclusivity and cultural sensitivity on campus and in our wider community. The Director and staff members contribute as members of the Orientation Week planning committee.

What short or long-term impact has/will the initiative have on the promotion of diversity, anti-racism, inclusivity and human rights in London and promoting London as a welcoming city?

These services promote diversity and inclusion of International and Exchange students in Canadian culture and London community. It highlights activities and opportunities to get involved on campus and within the London community that are inclusive and welcoming, to help with the transition from their home country.

What is the potential for expansion and/or inspiration for replication of the initiative?

There are many opportunities for more partnerships in the London community to help expand or introduce new activities within this program at the University. Increased awareness of this

program could lead to more volunteer opportunities within the community and could provide mentoring potential within the community.

How can receiving this Award be used to further promote diversity, anti-racism, inclusivity and human rights in London and to further promote London as a welcoming city?

Receiving this Award would send a message Internationally that Western University and London, Ontario prioritize diversity, anti-racism, inclusion and Human Rights. Western students and community partners could become mentors for positive International relations.