Session/Workshop Title: AKWABBA! Welcoming Gen-Z to Non-traditional Destinations

Lead Contact: Colton Oliphant

Organization: International Studies Abroad

Who is the primary target audience for your proposed workshop or session? Faculty, Administration, Program Providers

Describe specifically how and why this session is relevant to your target audience:
This session helps us to be better stewards of the program offerings that we share with students, and allows us to further challenge and expand the minds of the student we serve via intentional offerings and promotion of non-traditional destinations.

How are you bringing a variety of perspectives to your session? What makes the organizations or representatives involved diverse?
The things that make me diverse (Colton) are that I was a first generation college student who received a Pell Grant and hailed from a rural part of Western Washington. I've also had experiences that span 5 continents so my perspective is (at this point) inherently global. Dr. Bilderback is from the other side of the U.S. in New York State and also came from modest means. He is an expert in ethno-musicology and has done extensive work in both Ghana and China, having taught students in both countries, and has led students to Ghana for over a decade.

Are you open to partnering with others to create your proposal? In some instances, the Committee may request to combine sessions or workshops to better serve the needs of attendees.

Is your proposal a session or a workshop? Session

Please provide a description for your proposal. What is the structure? What are your primary goals? What outcomes do you hope to achieve?
As the presence of study abroad opportunities grow ever more ubiquitous, it is important that international educators successfully recruit (and adequately prepare) students for programs that venture beyond the usual haunts of Europe and Oceana. Students in this now-college-aged demographic tend to make decisions based on value and utility, not romantic ideation of wanderlust. It is up to us to make the connections allowing Gen Z to see why programs, such as an exploration of Ghanaian culture via the lens of drumming and dance, can and will give them practical skills that can help them navigate the treachery of normal adult life.