Preparing Students for Intercultural Fieldwork

The Peace Corps Prep program is an opportunity for colleges and universities to globalize their campuses through a partnership with the Peace Corps. The program enhances students’ undergraduate experience by preparing them for international development fieldwork and potential Peace Corps service.

HOW PEACE CORPS PREP WORKS

Peace Corps Prep is a diversity-focused certificate program that leverages a college’s existing courses and volunteer opportunities. The model is simple: the Peace Corps provides four core competencies that partner institutions help their students build, weaving together coursework, extracurricular and professional development activities. Program graduates receive a certificate from the Peace Corps and are inherently more competitive when applying for Peace Corps service.

HOW TO BECOME A PARTNER SCHOOL

The Peace Corps Prep proposal cycle is open in the fall of each year and closes at the end of the calendar year, with proposal materials posted on the Peace Corps website at peacecorps.gov/pcprep. Specialists in the Peace Corps Office of University Programs can guide you through the proposal process—write to pcprep@peacecorps.gov to be connected with one.

ABOUT THE PEACE CORPS

Peace Corps Volunteers spend two years serving overseas, living and working at the grassroots level to help communities address their most pressing issues—from education to public health to economic development and more. Volunteers share their culture with the people they serve, and bring the culture of their host communities back to the U.S. Serving as a Volunteer is a life-changing, life-defining experience and an incomparable career jumpstart.

A program like this is a professor’s dream for excited, engaged students in the classroom. Numbers, theories, and research papers all take on a new meaning. Students are no longer thinking about passing an exam or getting a grade, but rather how their new knowledge might come to help them on the ground in a completely different setting.

ROBIN RAGAN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, KNOX COLLEGE