

Tracking transformation: Developing a database to longitudinally assess the impact of immersion/travel classes to the developing world/poverty-stricken areas

Part of the course objectives for immersion/service-learning courses to the developing world or to poor parts of the United States are for students to develop a personal response to the challenges of that area while fostering a sense of solidarity and global citizenship with the poor. We believe these experiences are transformative for the students. This project seeks to longitudinally assess this personal growth over time both in tangible (for example, decisions to volunteer after graduation) and in intangible ways by developing an assessment survey and a database of the responses. That information, collected over time, also will inform course development to address adaptation issues for students, in the new environment, returning home and beyond.

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