

**Research Question:** What are the characteristics of Midwestern community colleges offering study abroad and what motivates community college students to participate in the programs offered?

### Rationale

- Facing barriers to studying abroad created an interest in access to study abroad
- Low representation of community college students in study abroad
- Limited literature on the intersection of community colleges and study abroad
  - Best practices have mainly focused on four-year institutions

### Literature Review Domains

- The role of community colleges in higher education
- The evolution of study abroad
- The value of study abroad
- Student motivations to study abroad
- Study abroad at community colleges

### Data Collection Methods

#### Artifact Analysis

- Institution Websites
- Integrated Postsecondary Education System (IPEDS) Data Center

- Community College Study Abroad Administrators
- Study Abroad Directors
- Study Abroad Advisors
- Faculty

#### Interviews

#### Surveys

- Community college students who have studied abroad

### Did you know?

- **45%** of all U.S. undergraduates are enrolled in community colleges
- Out of the 289,408 United States students that studied abroad in 2012-2013, only **1.1%** were Associate's degree students (IIE, 2014).
- Community colleges offer study abroad opportunities to more low-income and minority students than any other higher education institute (Raby and Valeau, 2007; Raby 2008).

### Implications

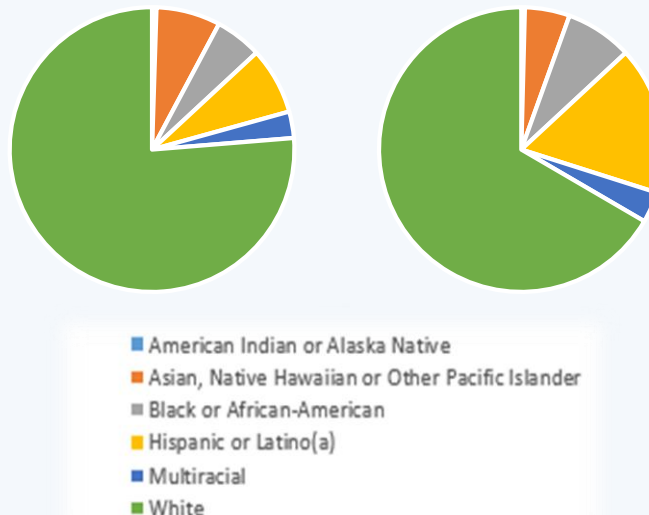
- Community College Administrators: insight into community college student motivations for studying abroad and best practices for study abroad at other community colleges
- International Education field: Best practices for engaging students of diverse ages and racial and ethnic backgrounds in study abroad

### Preliminary Results: What does study abroad at community colleges look like?

#### Race/Ethnicity of Study Abroad Students, 2012-2013

##### All Institutions

##### Community Colleges



Note. From Institute of International Education (IIE). (2014b). Special Reports: Community College Data Resource, Study Abroad: Characteristics, 2012-2013.

#### Institutional Snapshot From an informal interview

- Most program offerings are faculty-led
- Programs are offered to anyone in the community
- More than **150** students study abroad each year
- “Study abroad programs look a lot like our college. More participants are traditional college age, but on every program we have a couple non-traditional students.”
- “We lay the foundation for students to go to four year institutions and study abroad for longer periods.”

#### Relevant Sources

- Institute of International Education (IIE). (2014). Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange. Retrieved from <http://www.iie.org/opendoors>
- Institute of International Education (IIE). (2014b). Special Reports: Community College Data Resource, Study Abroad: Characteristics, 2012-2013. Retrieved from <http://www.iie.org/Research-and-Publications/Open-Doors/Data/Community-College-Data-Resource>
- Raby, R. L., & Valeau, E. J. (2007). Community college international education: Looking back to forecast the future. *New Directions For Community Colleges*, 2007(138), 5-14.
- Raby, R.L. (2008). Expanding Education Abroad at U.S. Community Colleges. IIE Study Abroad White Paper Series 3. New York: Institute for International Education Press.