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Why Globalization Matters

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Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

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IV. Why Globalization Matters

JW Terry, UD Alumnus, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

Globalization is a choice; inclusivity is also a choice. When you have privilege or power, you can choose what you like and what you don't like. People tend to associate with what they value. That is fine; however, the problem exists in the question of "why do we value what we value?" I would argue that your values have been shaped by the media, false or incomplete historical narratives, and of course your upbringing. Therefore, your values have been skewed by factors like racism, white supremacy, simple stereotypes.



Audience members engaged with speakers after each session.

Internationalization is how UD is going to prepare its students to solve both local and global issues. It is going to be the primary means by which future servant leaders will be able to bridge the cultural and linguistic divides that exist in the U.S. and around the world. Without an understanding of other cultures, languages, and histories of other

countries, UD students will not have the breadth of knowledge required to become global citizens. Internationalization allows one to look at the world through a different lens. People who lack international insight tend to have a lopsided view of the world. And an undeveloped context is easy prey for demagogues or others seeking to divide.

For example, it was recently reported that President Trump asked during an official meeting on immigration why we would want all these people from "shithole countries"—in reference to Haiti and some African nations—coming to the U.S. He would evidently prefer immigrants from Norway. Having an international perspective allows you to have or at least present a more nuanced understanding of the world than Mr. Trump. It advances your thinking beyond simple stereotypes or decision points, such as black is bad and white is good.

Internationalization may not be comfortable, but nothing that requires significant growth usually is. In my eyes, internationalization is taking advantage of opportunities to learn and interact with different, people, languages, places, and cultures. And if you do partake, it is my hope that these experiences will reshape your previously held beliefs or bias allowing you to experience the world freely reaching your own conclusions. Obviously, the country we share is becoming increasingly more diverse, more complex. The university you share is becoming more diverse, more complex. Don't fight the inevitable, embrace it.