Milton J. Bennett Keynote Address

Contextual Intelligence: The Idea that Integrates Education, Business, and Cross-Cultural Experience

Workshop

Developing Intercultural Competence in Work Integrated Learning Programs

Workshop Description
Amongst the next and best practices in work-integrated learning will be an increased emphasis on dealing effectively with cultural difference. Many employers operating in a global environment are already specifying “international experience” as a hiring criterion. But employers are increasingly aware that having experience does not necessarily mean having competence. So the next request will be more specifically for intercultural competence – a demonstrated ability to communicate and manage in culturally diverse environments both internationally and domestically. This workshop gives an overview of best practices in facilitating intercultural learning and developing intercultural competence as part of work-integrated programs at home and abroad.

Biography

Milton Bennett, Ph.D. is a founding director of the Intercultural Communication Institute in Portland, Oregon, where previously he was associate professor of communication studies at Portland State University. He currently is Executive Director of the Intercultural Development Research Institute (Portland, Oregon and Milano, Italy <www.idrinstitute.org>) and holds adjunct faculty appointments at the University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy) and the University of the Pacific (USA).

Dr. Bennett has been on the executive training faculty of Dartmouth’s Tuck School of Business, Smith College, Boeing Leadership Center, Motorola University, the Stockholm School of Economics, and Eni University. In the last 30 years he has provided consulting and training for over 60 major companies, including long-term relationships with Motorola, Boeing, and Eni (Agip).

In the education sector, Dr. Bennett has provided training to the faculty and staff of over 150 colleges and universities on topics of intercultural learning in international education and domestic diversity programs. He is well-known for his Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity (DMIS) and its measurement, the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). He is the co-author of American Cultural Patterns: A Cross-Cultural Perspective, the contributing editor of Basic Concepts of Intercultural Communication, and a contributing editor of the Handbook of Intercultural Training, 3rd Edition. He has recently completed a chapter on intercultural learning in international education programs for A History of US Study Abroad: 1965-present, a special issue of Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad (2010) and edited State of the art research on intercultural learning in study abroad and best practice for intercultural learning in international youth exchange, a special supplement to the Journal of Intercultural Education (2009).