The mission of the Duke Kunshan is to prepare students for professional, intellectual, and societal leadership roles across the globe, with one of the educational principles of “pluralism, tolerance and a willingness to engage with and learn from others in preparation for living, working and leading – effectively and ethically – in an interconnected, multi-cultural world.” Responding to this generation of undergraduate students’ developmental needs, a semester-long pilot program entitled the “Student Leadership Development Program” (SLDP) was designed to help students explore self-identity, establish personal goals, and develop leadership knowledge and skills to succeed in a dynamic global context.

The goal of this presentation is to showcase a model which global student affairs practitioners could take away concepts and ideas and create similar programs that engage and empower students with multicultural backgrounds, and who are interested in enhancing their skills and exploring their “leadership potentials.” Key discussion points for this presentation will include (1) a brief description of the context in which university students go through different development tasks due to differences in their developmental needs; (2) a description of key features (e.g. workshops, discovery learning, mentorship with faculty and administrators, group projects, etc.) of the Duke Kunshan SLDP and how this program creates learning around intercultural or global competencies; and (3) description of student learning outcomes and program assessments, and “lessons” learned for future planning of SLDP. Time will be allotted at the end of the presentation for questions and answers.

Learning outcomes

1. To gain a basic understanding of the development tasks and skills for university students of the “90s generation”;
2. To be exposed to a model of student leadership development program and learn the purposes of its key features;
3. To understand the importance of assessment and student learning outcomes, and able to make recommendations for the future.
Presenters
Dr Howard Wang, Duke Kunshan University

Dr. Howard Wang served as the Associate Dean for Student Life/Adjunct Faculty in Education at Duke Kunshan University (China) from 2014 to 2018. He was also an adjunct professor in Education at the Faculty of Education, Beijing Normal University. He had served at senior administrative levels for over a combined 30 years at UCLA and two California State University campuses. He retired as the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs from California State University, Fullerton. He received his BA in Biology from the University of Oregon, and Clinical Microbiology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He has a MA and Ph.D. degree in Higher Education Administration from UCLA.

Since 1998, Dr. Wang has been active in several professional associations in the U.S. and in the Asia Pacific region. He has written articles and served as editors and/or authors in several books on student affairs related topics1. Dr. Wang served as the Vice President of the International Association of Student Affairs and Services (IASAS) as well as the Editorial Board of the Journal of Student Affairs in Africa. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Journal of International Students,

Dr. Wang is an active advocate for Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) students in higher education, working with secondary schools districts, universities, community organizations, and the U.S. Congress on legislations that provide financial support to designated “Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions”2. He received recognition, honors and several awards not only for his work in student affairs and in education in the U.S.3, but also in U.S. federal environmental protection project, for which his team received a White House award4 on exemplary “education outreach design” on community partnerships to protect individual health from consuming chemically contaminated fish.

Jia Zheng, Duke Kunshan University

Jia Zheng is currently a doctoral candidate from the Higher Education, Student Affairs and International Education Policy Program, with a Student Affairs Concentration, at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her previous experience includes serving as the Senior Residence Life Officer for Residential Education and Programs at Duke Kunshan University in China, overseeing residential life programs and establishing living-learning communities for both undergraduate and graduate students. She designed and piloted the Student Leadership Development Program with the Global Learning Semester students at Duke Kunshan University and implemented the program with twenty first-year undergraduate students as part of their first-year experience from 2018-2019.

Jia graduated from the Master of Education in Education Policy Program from the University of Washington, Seattle and received her Bachelor’s degree in English Education from the Education University of Hong Kong.

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1 His article on campus student housing in U.S. universities appeared in a 2010 issue of “Community Design,” a premier magazine published by the Architectural Design and Research Institute of Tsinghua University, China. He is frequently invited to consult and lecture on U.S. higher education systems and governance by various top-ranked universities in China since 2002. Dr. Wang also served as an associate editor of two books published by UNESCO in 2002 and 2009, respectively. He is one of several senior associate editors for the latest version of the UNESCO book soon to be published in 2020. He co-authored a chapter with noted researcher, Professor Robert Teranishi, in a book entitled “Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in Higher Education: Research and Perspectives on Identity, Leadership, and Success” published by NASPA in March 2012.

2 He was invited by in June 2008, by the U.S. Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, to present a paper on the U.S. Capitol Hill. He was nominated in 2010 by Congressman Mike Honda for President Obama’s consideration to serve as a member of the White House Advisory Commission on AAPI. Instead, he was later appointed to serve as a member of U.S. Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez’s Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Committee till 2013.

3 Dr. Wang is a member of the international honor society Phi Beta Delta. He received the NASPA “Pillar of the Profession” Award and the “Outstanding Contribution to Asian American and Pacific Islanders Mentoring Award” from the ACPA Asian Pacific Network. He was recognized by various elected officials of the California Legislature.

4 He served three years on a community task force of the U.S. Environment Protection Agency (USEPA) for Region VI (US Western Region, including California) as a member of the Community Resource Council for the Fish Contamination Superfund Site Education Outreach Collaborative.