

# Engaging in Meaningful Discussions to Promote International Student Success



# Introduction

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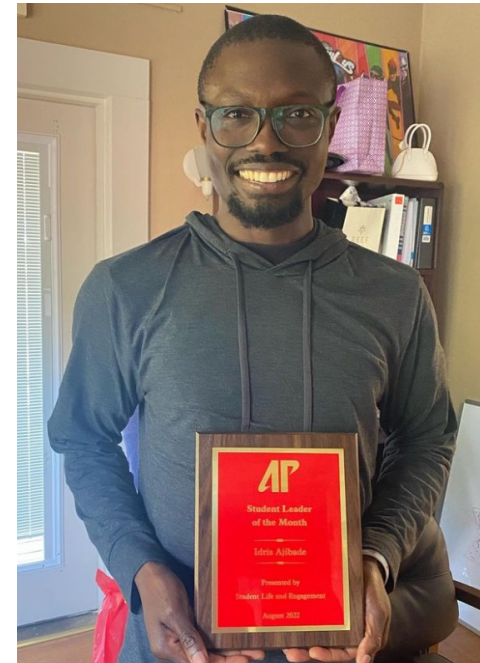
# GLOBAL EXPERIENCE



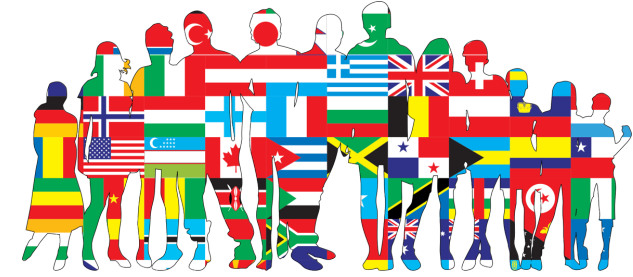
**AUSTIN PEAY**  
GOVERNORS



# Our International Students



# Quiz Time



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How many international students do we have at APSU?

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How many languages are represented among our international students at APSU?

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What percentage of our international students are graduate students?

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How many countries do our international students represent?

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How many continents do our international students represent?

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What country has the highest representation of international students at APSU?



# Your Experiences Working with International Students

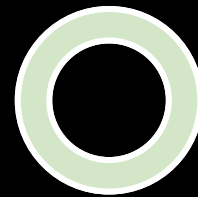
- Have you taught or worked with international students? Would you like to share some of your experiences?
- What did you gain from the experiences? Were there any challenges?





# Learning About Our International Students

- We encourage you to attend international student activities and events



# Global Govs: Meet a Family



- Help us support our international students! Through the Global Gov Meet-a-Family program, APSU faculty and staff have the opportunity to host an international student.
- A faculty or staff member participating in this program will be matched with an international student for the time the student is at APSU. The international student will **NOT** live with their host family. Examples of activities that the host family could offer to international students include, but are not limited to: Shopping, meals at local restaurants, sports/other local events, and holiday celebrations.
- This program is mutually beneficial. Many international students are here in the U.S. for the first time. Interacting with faculty and staff through the Global Gov Meet-a-Family program will help them adjust to their new environment, make new friends, and experience the local culture and traditions. In return, the host family will learn about the history of other countries, gain a greater understanding of other cultures, and meet and befriend people from all over the world!
- **Singles and couples without children are also considered families.**
- <https://www.apsu.edu/study-abroad-exchange/global-govs-meet-family.php>

# Informal Gatherings

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- Inviting international students over for dinner or taking them places.
  - Engaging in meaningful cross-cultural dialog
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**Phil making Nigerian puff puffs for our International dinner guests.**



# Benefits of the Meet a Family Program

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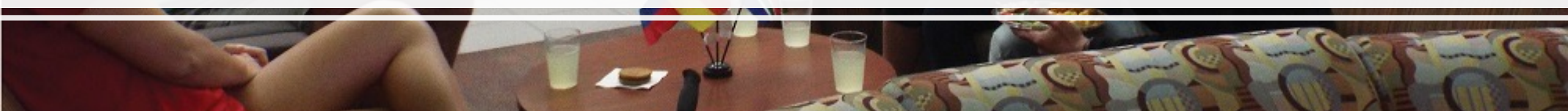
- Cross-Cultural Learning and Understanding
  - Cultural Immersion
  - Support Network
  - Global Perspectives
  - Learning about the Local Community
  - Experiencing American Family Life
  - Building Global Networks
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EXPLORE THE USA



International Welcome Picnic







**YOU'RE INVITED!**

# International Welcome Picnic

Wednesday, August 30, 2023  
Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM)  
306 Drane Street  
4:00 to 5:30 PM

Please click [here](#) to submit the  
online R.S.V.P. form



Office of Global  
Engagement

[internationale@apsu.edu](mailto:internationale@apsu.edu) or (931) 221-6851

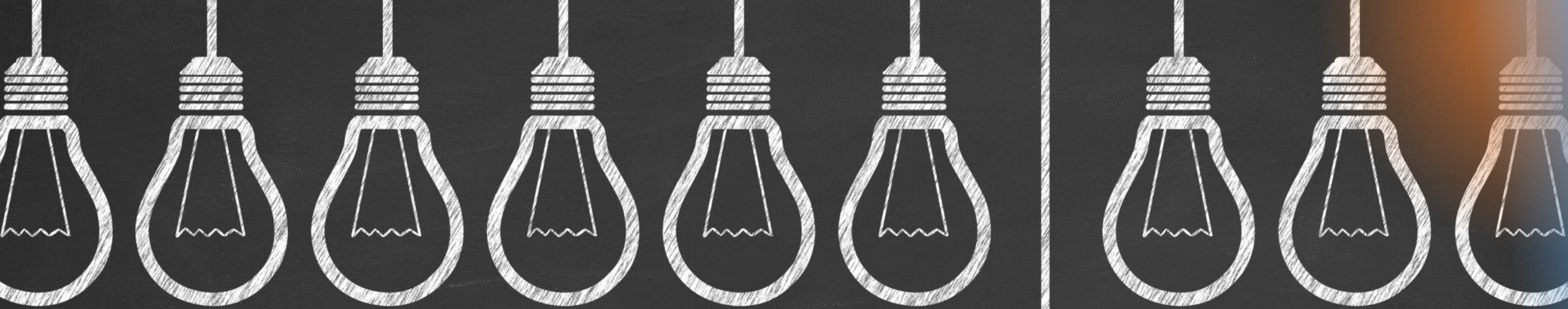


# Supporting Our International Students

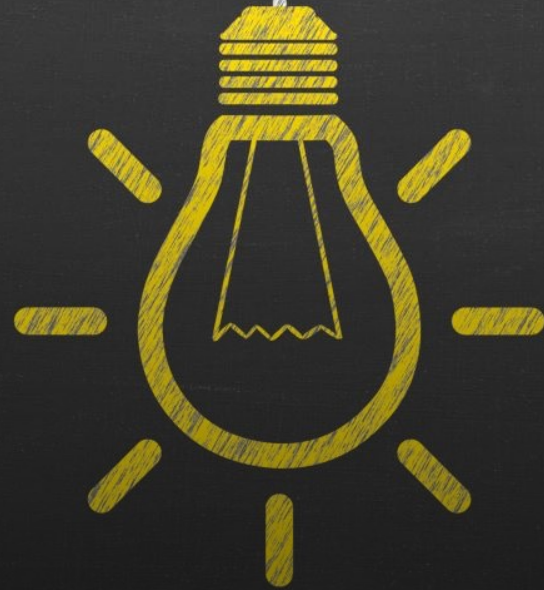
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- We would like to have an informal discussion about our international students and how to support them.
  - We have created some discussion questions to talk about in small groups. At the end of this activity, we will share responses to the questions. You are also welcome to write down ideas to share with us.
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# Strategies for Recruiting and Retaining International Students





# Discussion Questions

- What specific strategies and outreach efforts have been most successful in attracting international students to APSU, and how can we further enhance our recruitment efforts?
- What do you think are some of the major challenges in recruiting international students? What about retention challenges?
- How can the university foster a sense of community and belonging among international students to enhance their sense of connectedness and commitment to stay?
- How can the university proactively address issues related to cultural adjustment and homesickness to support the emotional well-being of international students and encourage them to stay?



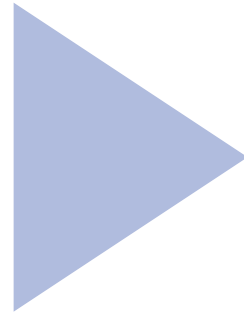
# Other Topics for Discussion

- Cultural Adjustment Challenges
- Language Barrier and Communication
- Support Services for International Students
- Academic Transition
- Social Integration and Building Friendships
- Coping with Homesickness
- Cultural Identity and Belonging
- Navigating Administrative Processes
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Balancing Studies and Cultural Exploration
- Utilizing Campus Resources
- Mental Health and Well-being
- Cultural Misunderstandings



# Q&A

What questions  
do you have for  
us?



Is there anything  
else you want to  
discuss related  
to supporting  
our international  
students?

Thank You!