

Inside the CCID Conference: Highlights, Insights, and Connections

Attending and presenting at this year's Community Colleges for International Development (CCID) 49th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., was an inspiring and energizing experience. I was honored to be invited to represent the International College of Seville (ICS) and present at the conference—our first time attending a CCID event. It was an incredible opportunity to connect with educators, administrators, and international program leaders who are all dedicated to expanding global learning opportunities for students.



Evan and Co-Presenter Angelica Rackow



Evan and Richard Johnson, Harper College

One of the highlights of my experience was co-presenting a session with Angelica Rackow from the Office of International Education at Harper College on inspiring and empowering students through digital storytelling. We explored how digital storytelling can serve as a powerful reflection tool for students, allowing them to share their international experiences in a meaningful way. By equipping students with the ability to craft and share their own narratives, we help them articulate the impact of their study abroad experiences and inspire others to pursue global opportunities.

I also had the privilege of presenting alongside David Moore from Broward College on the College Consortium for International Studies (CCIS). Our session focused on how institutions can work together to expand study abroad and exchange programs, making international education more accessible and inclusive. Through collaboration, colleges can develop stronger global partnerships and provide students with diverse opportunities to engage with the world.



Evan and CCIS Executive Members David Moore and Janice Thomas



Evan and Joi Smith, Oakton College

Beyond the presentations, the conference was an invaluable space for discussing innovative solutions to enhance study abroad programs and strengthen international exchange. Being in Washington, D.C., a hub of diplomacy and global engagement, made the experience even more impactful. The conversations we had—on increasing accessibility, addressing funding challenges, and fostering meaningful cross-cultural experiences—reinforced just how essential it is to come together during this pivotal time in education.

Inside the CCID Conference: Highlights, Insights, and Connections

At a moment when the U.S. education system faces significant challenges, events like the CCID Conference serve as critical platforms for collaboration and problem-solving. They bring together professionals who are passionate about global learning and committed to ensuring that students have transformative international experiences. I left feeling not only inspired but also equipped with new ideas, connections, and strategies to bring back to the ICS.



CCID Conference Reception



Evan leading the Faculty Forum

I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have represented the ICS at our first CCID conference. This experience reaffirmed the importance of working together to create a more connected and accessible international education landscape. I look forward to continuing these conversations and building on the momentum from this incredible event.

Here's to the power of collaboration, storytelling, and global engagement –and to many more opportunities to connect in the future!

Learn more about this experience by listening to our recent podcast episode or by checking out our [highlight video](#).



Evan and David Moore leading a session about the CCIS Model



Evan and Angelica Rackow leading a session on digital storytelling in exchange programs