

Collaboration Proposal
STEPS TO LEAPS
PEER DIALOGUE PROGRAM

Fostering Emotional Resilience, Empathic Dialogue and Belongingness

October 1, 2021

VISION:

These days in general, but especially in the midst of a global pandemic, many students long for the deep connection that helps them recognize their own resilience and experience a sense of belonging. Purdue's [CILMAR](#) and the global non-profit Crossing Borders Education ([CBE](#)) share a vision of students connected in local and global peer communities that support their well-being and enable them to become change agents. We have been inspired by the peer approach the Steps to Leap program takes and would be delighted to collaborate in helping students find deep connection across cultural differences. CILMAR's mission is to support the intercultural learning of all Boilermakers – traditionally that mission has been implemented via train-the-trainer impact on the curriculum through faculty, but we see peer interactions in the co-curricular space as an opportunity worthy of more systematic support. CBE brings together expertise in transformative learning and participant media production to offer cost effective and pedagogically sound ways to support students to experience deep social connections, purpose and actions during challenging times.

PROPOSAL:



CILMAR has invested in a pilot for 2021-22 in partnership with Crossing Borders Education to offer the CBE peer methodology (patent filed March 2020) to several cohorts of Purdue students. The pilot program will feature an interactive *Purdue Peer Dialogue Model* that engages students in peer-led workshops, empathic dialogues, regular events and participatory culture in order to support the growth of a sustainable local and global peer community.

We believe the Steps to Leaps program might be a good fit for the roll out of the pilot as well as potentially more long-term collaboration, given the alignment of the CBE peer dialogue model with [S2L's learning pillars](#):

1. A focus on deep sharing and belonging within **networks**,
2. which leads to social connections around self-care to increase **wellbeing**,
3. which enables students to build **grit** to overcome challenges,
4. which inspires them to commit to purpose, service and peer **leadership**,
5. which enables them to expand their personal **impact**.

IMPACT:

We envision the CBE methodology and tools bringing the following benefits to the Purdue community:

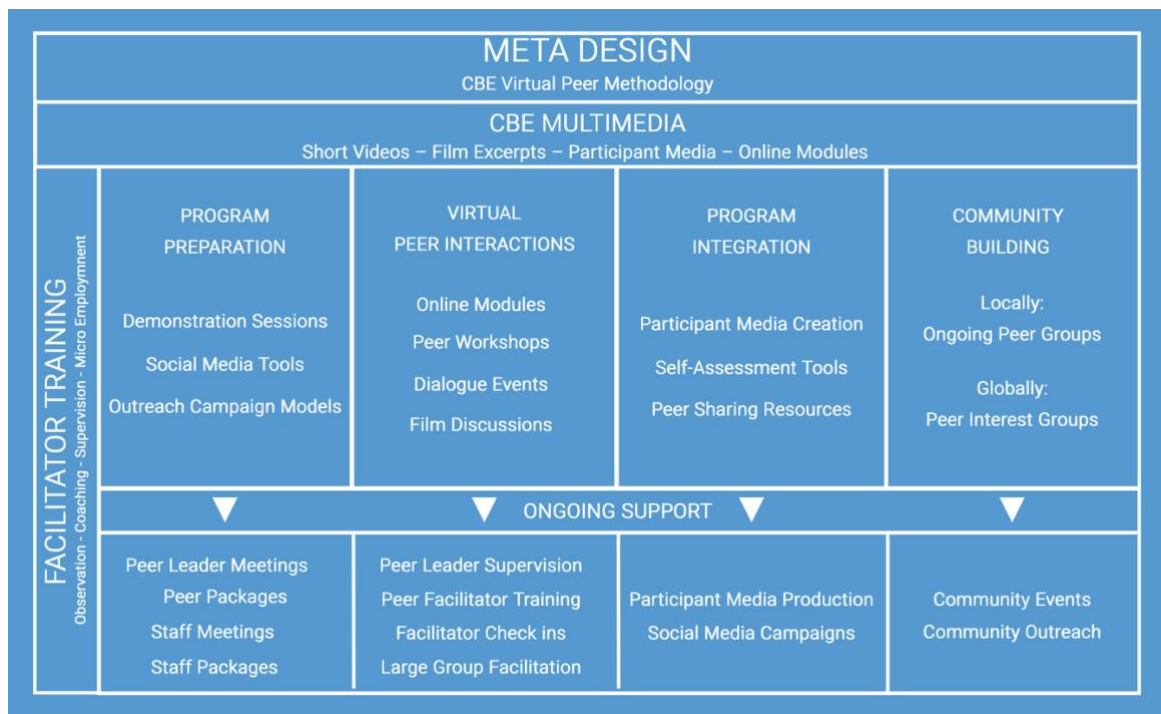
- Enhanced wellbeing, networks, diverse skill sets and ongoing local and global peer communities.
- Access to CBE media resources that connect Steps to Leaps learning pillars to coursework, and co-curricular programming, and family communication.
- Opportunities for assessment that both return feedback to participants and enable metanalysis of learning outcomes data at the institutional level.

This peer dialogue program would serve the Purdue community by nurturing trust, hope, connection, insight, communication skills, belongingness, purpose, and resilience. *The model leverages scalable technologies while emphasizing meaningful interactions and deep learning.*

ELEMENTS:

The CBE methodology and resources will be custom tailored to support a Purdue Peer Model that will empower individual students, strengthen local connections, and weave a global community.

- Methodology** - CBE has pioneered a unique, interactive virtual peer dialogue methodology called *Crossing Borders Process* that is designed to build trust between students and support weaving intimate peer communities in order to connect individual students around collective and transformative learning processes. CBE facilitates these interactive workshops around resilience skills that nurture a culture of dialogue within peer communities through the art of storytelling. The workshops create intimate connections in small groups of four and support students to practice empathy, dialogue skills and uplifting creative collaboration. The CBE peer methodology has shown its impact with diverse institutions such as the British Council, UNESCO-ESD, TED Circles, the University of Southern California and the University of Glasgow, among others. It has demonstrated effective, highly personal and easily scalable pathways to serve students in building communities of practice that enhance vital capacities, such as empathy, self-inquiry, wellbeing, active listening, dialogue across difference, conflict transformation, and civic engagement, all skills that can serve the Steps to Leap’s program while simultaneously introducing students to diverse Purdue services such as CAPS, Student Life and CILMAR.
- Multimedia** - CBE produces unique, high quality, short videos, films and multimedia. Below are brief introductions to the CBE film work, peer methodology, and multimedia tools that are designed to support transformative learning experiences online. Existing examples include: a [Teaser \(2min\)](#) of the Resilience Workshop, a brief visual introduction to the CBE methodology: [Virtual Peer Learning Processes](#), graphics about our approach to scale [Peer Interactions](#) locally and globally, trailers of our award winning [Intercultural Film Trilogy](#).
- Experiential and Reflective Activities** - CBE would be delighted to collaborate with CILMAR to include intercultural activities around the Steps to Leaps learning pillars in order to introduce the *Growth Mindset* and the *Five Pillars* through an intercultural lens, unpack the *Five Pillars* within intercultural contexts to increase belonging of students with minority backgrounds, and support faculty with short intercultural classroom activities (10-15min) that highlight through participant media the Steps to Leaps curriculum while strengthening intercultural awareness within the classroom.



Contact Arnd Wächter (arnd@cbe.global) and Dr. Kris Acheson-Clair (krisac@purdue.edu) for more information.



As an international non-profit, CBE has created multimedia online tools for various universities and organizations including [National Geographic Education](#) and has delivered grant-funded projects with collaborators such as the British Council DICE program, Erasmus Mundus and [Bringing Theory to Practice](#).