

**GSE in the news** with Chile's oldest newspaper El Mercurio and Dr. Cameron McCarthy on the importance of forming global citizens!

See translation of the Dr. McCarthy's interview with [El Mercurio](#) news paper from Spanish to English below.

## ***The formation of global citizens is a primary task.***

The ability to adapt to different contexts will be fundamental in a world where borders are increasingly blurred. Shortly after the attacks on the Twin Towers, the US Congress made the decision to create commissions focused on promoting foreign travel of their college students.

Until then, no one seemed to have worried about the image we projected to the world. Why were there people who hated the country? The best way to understand this is to put ourselves in touch with others around the world, says Dr. Cameron McCarthy on the objective of commissions such as the Abraham Lincoln, which in 2005 strongly promoted academic exchange between the youth of the United States and other countries: it is intended that students understand their nation, but also learn the reality of others, hopefully helping to erase many of their stereotypes.

As an academic of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in recent years Dr. McCarthy has been dedicated to promoting the idea of expanding boundaries of students in the College of Education. He has come to Chile with many of them to learn about the educational reality of the country, while taking advantage of finding out about the culture, geography, tourism and Chile's extraordinary cuisine.

During his visit throughout the Chile last week, McCarthy also expounded on the formation of global citizens at universities such as the Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso and the University of Chile. While also visiting the Faculty of Psychology of the Universidad Diego Portales, he explained the concept of a global student that he promotes.

"Being a global citizen is a competency that previous generations often find hard to understand. The same goes for schools, which often cling to the tradition of not being very open to others. But the truth is that when we have generations that are no longer remaining in the same job throughout their lives or who are constantly absorbing information coming from all over the world, it requires an ability to adapt to dynamically different circumstances", he says. Being more aware of the way of life of others, being able to communicate without feeling intolerably rooted to our starting points, is one of the greatest modern educational tasks, asserts the academician.

## ***Classrooms with Demographic Diversity***

To encourage greater openness alone is not enough to travel. An important part of this process involves creating school programs that draw on and reveal more about the lived context of the international students that are being integrated into our classrooms." It is very good that a country's traditions are celebrated for instance on their national or independence day, however, students should learn about these traditions under a new scenario in which immigration and the presence of immigrants are dynamics transforming what is putatively your own traditions. "We learn more about ourselves by listening to others," he says .

In these exercises, McCarthy advises teachers to be prepared to compare and share customs, always searching for points of commonality and self-discovery: "From one minute to another, teachers must now come to terms with transforming classrooms defined by the new demographics and the movement of cultural capital. There are tremendous changes taking place in society that young people are absorbing and for which their teachers can be overtaken by events as they look for help. They do not have a lot of help!"

So – continuing on – it is important to know that the teacher's role is not to solve all the problems of society, but to be an actor that helps raise questions and exposes the benefits of a more diverse society. As an example, "You can talk about the desires, capacities and contributions of those who are inserted into a new country."

McCarthy speaks from experience; having been born in Barbados, he moved to the United States when he was very young, where he studied and was trained as an academic. Currently, most of the research work on this project is a collaboration with people just like himself who grew up in two or more countries.

## ***Networking***

To learn more about what motivates students to become global citizens, Cameron McCarthy has for the past five years been a lead researcher in a global ethnography study of the way in which secondary schools are preparing youngsters for globalization. He has been keenly attentive to the way in which teachers are preparing youngsters for futures that exceed their locality, country and region. He emphasizes that the future will involve building networks in which teachers more vigorously engage with the world, putting their students in contact with the rich possibilities that the new globalizing environment affords.

