

Dr. Michael Hester,
AAMI Coordinator, UWG

UWG's Puerto Rico Study
Away Program: An Example
of Collaborative Program
Development



Background

UWG AAMI's 2019 Brazil Study Abroad Program:

- Originated from relationships with Black Male Faculty
- Facilitated through Interdisciplinary Curriculum
- Coordinated with Advancement and Education Abroad administrators seeking DEI impacts
- One program → 50% increase in Black Male participation in study abroad



Mommy, where do Education Abroad programs come from?

- **Faculty passions/experiences**
- **Program requirements for/connection with international partners**
- **Institutional interests**
- **Grant opportunities**
- **Donor desires**
- **Community partner opportunities**



AY23 Puerto Rico Study Away Program

- Study Away program that involves an interdisciplinary course (XIDS 2002 WDYKA PR) in Spring 2023 that includes an eight-day tour of the island over Spring Break.
- Eligible applicants will be awarded a \$2500 scholarship from a Coca Cola Ed Abroad Grant for study abroad/away (total cost of the trip is \$2551).
- The cap for participation is 25 students (there are 25 scholarships available, although eligibility for the scholarship is not required to participate)



Comparing Brazil & Puerto Rico Programs

Brazil

- Faculty experience from a previous university (Ohio St)
- Required creation of new course (XIDS 2300)
- Helpers:
 - Existing program
 - Experienced faculty
- Hurdles:
 - Developing curriculum
 - Controlling costs of the program
 - Finding money for students

Puerto Rico

- Internal need to create a study away program
- Required creation of new course (XIDS 2001)
- Helpers:
 - Scholarships existing
 - Travel Agency (Stone & Compass)
- Hurdles:
 - Developing curriculum
 - Recruiting eligible applicants for the CC scholarship

Lessons Learned, Wisdom Shared

1. Education Abroad works best when we think “broadly”
2. Watch your radar for “energy sources” that can fuel program development
3. Lean into strengths and allow those to be the foundations of your program
4. Seek out “locals” at the destination country who have connections to your school
5. Don’t hesitate to ‘stop and ask for directions’... and share your shortcuts with others!