The New F Words
Rethinking access in the 21st century

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1. Objectives

➔ Review the old and new Fs
   Consider the history of the original “four F’s: Finances, Faculty, Friends, & Fear,” and suggest new F’s: Future & Fit

➔ Evaluate where the field is with these F’s
   Collectively assess how (or if) the field has made any advancements in diminishing these Fs.

➔ Offer ideas to reduce these Fs
   Provide a set of ideas to address the barriers to access for the field to move forward
The origin of the four Fs

In 1991, Johnnetta Betsch Cole gave the keynote address at the CIEE conference where the topic was “International Education: Broadening the Base of Participation.” There she introduced the main barriers she saw to access for the African American Women attending Spelman College.

- Faculty & Staff
- Finances
- Family & Community
- Fear
“On our responsibility...”

“My colleagues, we have the awesome yet doable responsibility of making ... enriching experiences possible for larger numbers of African American students—indeed, all students.”

Johnnetta B Cole, 1991
Rethinking the Fs for today

- Faculty
- Finances
- Family
- Fear
- Future
- Fit

Photo: Fox 32 Chicago news footage, March 11, 2016
Faculty & Finances

**Faculty** play a vital role in
- Advocacy
- Recruitment
- Support &
- Legitimacy

**Finances** can be addressed in the following ways
- Clarifying reality of cost over rhetoric
- Considering the “double expense” of loss of work time
- Exploring all option for funding from student perspective and from an institutional perspective
- Partnership with campus and off-campus allies
Family & Fear

**Family** plays an integral role in
   Awareness of, access to, and participation in study abroad for diverse students
   Prioritizing familial obligations over individualism
   Pressuring students to “finish college on time”
   Framing whether or not is it a “worthy” investment of time and money

**Fear** impacts student experiences because it
   Limits their willingness to go overseas
   Raises questions regarding their safety
   Increases concerns on how their identity will impact their time abroad
Future & Fit

Future is the focus for students
Graduating from college to ensure they obtain a good job
How will study abroad benefit their future career
Unpacking students’ study abroad experience
  Helping students articulate the skills they’ve gain during their study abroad experience and how it relates to their future careers. How to talk about study abroad in interviews

How does study abroad Fit in my degree?
Must graduate on time/Can’t afford to take on an additional semester
My major isn’t offered in study abroad
Group questions

○ In what way, if at all, is our group’s F word still relevant in 2017?
○ If our group’s F word is a barrier still, what are ways to remove it?
PAL

There are no easy ways to overcome these barriers, but this acronym can provide a pathway to increased access

➔ **Partnership**
This work does not need to be done alone. Partner with campus allies and off-campus agencies in this work

➔ **Advocacy**
Advocate for your students internally (on campus) and externally (with providers and agencies).

➔ **Leadership**
Much of this work requires individual efforts and leadership. Beyond this it is important to foster goodwill with your own sphere of influence to advance access
Thank you!

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