Rensselaer attracts students from around the globe, with the total number of undergraduate &
graduate students nearly doubling in the last 10 years. This creates a richness of international
diversity in the classroom, but can also bring challenges for both faculty and students. Faculty
may be frustrated by limited participation of the international students, especially non-native English
speakers; American students may think they are carrying the brunt of team projects; and the
international students may be confused and overwhelmed by the interaction expected of them. This
workshop will help faculty members and administrators understand factors contributing to such
frustrations, identify common challenges for language learners, and learn techniques for supporting
more effective intercultural learning. Participants will leave better prepared to welcome the world.

Topics to be covered:

⇒ The composition of Rensselaer’s international population, and related cultural differences in
   educational expectations.
⇒ Common communication challenges for the individual (listening, speaking, reading, writing)
⇒ Building on cultural strengths
⇒ Incorporating best practices of interactive learning for “universal benefits” for all students
⇒ Creating, supporting, and problem-shooting teams
⇒ Small tweaks that can yield big results
⇒ Resources for more information

Visit the Encouraging Intercultural Communication page for more information and to register.

Registration closes on November 2nd.