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Project Summary: AASCU 2014 Japan Studies Institute

It has been a tremendous honor to participate as a Fellow in AASCU's 2014 Japan Studies Institute. What I have learned in these two weeks will be extraordinarily helpful to my academic work as both a teacher and as an administrator at the University of Washington Bothell.

First, as a teacher, I am developing an innovative, undergraduate course comparing Japanese and American popular culture. This course will be taught collaboratively via videoconferencing with a university class at the School of Global Japanese Studies at Meiji University in Tokyo, using the pedagogical model of collaborative, online, international learning (COIL) in which my students at UW Bothell will collaborate with students at Meiji University on joint research projects. Having a fundamental understanding of the cultural roots of Japanese popular culture, I now will be much more effective as a co-teacher of this course. Following up on that course, I plan to co-teach the same course, but as a short-term, faculty-led study abroad experience *on* the Meiji University campus in Tokyo. The materials and advice that we received about organizing study abroad in Japan will be very valuable for this project.

Second, my role as Director of the Teaching and Learning Center positions me to advise our academic Programs and Schools, as well as co-curricular units like Student Life, regarding curriculum. In fact, one of our campus-wide learning goals, adopted just two years ago, include "understanding of diversity in cultures, identities, backgrounds, and experiences among individuals and groups, and critical analysis of information from multiple perspectives including intercultural, global, and ecological," both of which I can better support with a deeper historical, social, and cultural understanding of Japan. Through our Teaching and Learning Center, for example, I will initiate a faculty and staff learning community on Japan studies so the disparate elements of Japan studies on campus can be better coordinated across the curriculum and co-curriculum.