Dear incoming students,

We welcome you to SIT Graduate Institute and to your first course titled “Foundations in Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management.” The purpose of this letter is to give you some introductory information and to help you prepare for the start of the course.

The values of SIT are Inclusion, Experiential Education, Engaged Learning, Community, Reciprocity, Social Justice, and Sustainability. As such you will see these reflected in this course.

This course introduces students to the core competencies considered essential to professionals in the fields of international education, development, peacebuilding, and nonprofit work. In addition, students will build a learning community and form a foundation to successfully begin and complete the forthcoming phases of their graduate coursework at SIT.

The core competencies focus on practice-centered learning, intercultural communication, multicultural teams, leadership, and transformational change in organizations and society. Through multiple teaching and learning methods, including readings, lectures, discussions, simulations, and individual and group projects, students acquire knowledge and skills to plan and carry out ongoing, self-directed professional development that effectively utilizes other courses, research, work experience, and other learning opportunities.

Each student will be assigned to one of four sections or cohorts, and to one small team within that section. Both the sections and the teams will be pre-established before the course begins.

The course is taught in two phases. Foundations 1 is taught in an intensive, nine-day period at the beginning of the fall term. It focuses on intercultural competency, multi-cultural team development, and change in micro-level contexts. Foundations 2 is taught in a once-a-week format during the following eight weeks of the fall term. This phase focuses on societal change, leadership, and organizations as they relate to change.

As a core textbook, the Foundations 1 course will utilize the publication below. Since the course is taught in intensive fashion it will be extremely helpful to read this book over the summer before you arrive. You will be advised of additional readings when the course begins.

Please come to the first class of Foundations 1 having read the following book:

We look forward to your arrival and to your active participation in the course.

Warm Regards,

SIT Graduate Institute Faculty