

Community Partner: MSU Holmes Cultural Diversity Center

Team name: Culture Shock

Team Members: Jonathan Banes, Deonna Jenkins, Raven Miller, Brandon Burke, Margeaux Raburn, Antoinette Jenkins

The Culture Shock Action Team completed 116 hours of service to the MSU Holmes Cultural Diversity Center, logged 83 visits, and traveled 33 miles during the fall semester of 2008. The purpose of their work was “to promote cultural awareness among students of the university, to advertise study abroad opportunities as well as branch out into international education, and to change perceptions of different stereotypes of cultures and to make others more socially aware and tolerant.” The Culture Shock Action Team addressed their purpose by hosting an International Education Week in which they worked together with the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center. Events organized for the international education week included a kick-off party with the MSU English as a Second Language Center, a carnival, a foreign food tasting, a model United Nations seminar, a soccer event, and a movie. They also hosted a fair in the library to educate students about study abroad opportunities. After completing a semester of service with the MSU Holmes Culture Diversity Center the Culture Shock team is now aware of the positive impact they had. “Hopefully we broadened students’ perspectives on international cultures and study abroad opportunities as well as shaped international students’ opinions of how they view Americans and their culture.”