We're here with Becky Konowicz, Director of International Admission for Santa Clara University. And in the last part of our conversation, we're going to hear from Becky about some additional information, and hopefully some advice that she has to share with all of you. >> Great, be happy to. >> Great. So currently about 3% of Santa Clara's students are international. From the university perspective do you want to see that number increase, decrease, stay the same? >> Santa Clara has actually put an increase of international students as part of their strategic plan. So we are hoping to be successful to increase to 5%, and then continue onward beyond that. But right now, it's 5% is, is our goal and then in the future we'll reassess, but it is an important aspect of where we would like to go in the future is to bring that global diversity to our campus. And I would encourage international students as you're searching for universities to look for a university that is interested in having you on their campus. And it is part of maybe the strategic goals, or maybe part of the admission process where they are making it friendly for you to apply and they're interested in having you to their campus. >> So, at Santa Clara, why is it that you're interested in bringing more students to campus? Why the increase from 3% to 5%? >> Yeah, that's a great question. For Santa Clara it's coming from many angles. We know we're in the heart of Silicon Valley, which is a very globally-minded location. >> Mm-hm. >> We are surrounded with Fortune 500 companies and startups that are globally minded. But we also know to give our students an advantage, they too need to be globally minded. >> Mm-hm. >> They never when they may be asked in a future corporation to have a global twist to their job. >> Hm. >> In order to do that, yes, our students need to go study abroad and they need to have global topics in their courses. >> Hm. >> But it's. There's nothing like an international student having a roommate with an American student. Or having a conversation in a class that brings multiple perspectives beyond just I'm from California, I'm from New York, but I'm also from Oman or I am from Brazil. >> Mm-hm. >> That brings a whole new dynamic that our faculty want in their classrooms, because they know that's where the world's going. >> Mm-hm. >> So for Santa Clara it is the idea of preparing a global group of students who can interact, question the world around them. >> Mm-hm. >> But be a part of a global change. >> Hm. >> Not just a regional change. >> We've told the students taking this course, that this is a course about admission to US universities, and not about financial aid. But could you briefly touch on Santa Clara's financial aid policy for international students? >> Santa Clara does not have a financial aid process for international students. So all international students must demonstrate the ability to cover all costs for Santa Clara at the time of application. For a select highly select group of students, we do offer a merit scholarship, it's called our Dean Scholarship and it can be between 6 and $10,000 per year. It is highly selective to receive that, and again, not enough to cover the full cost which to Santa Clara, so that's something for an international student to be aware of. >> So now, maybe we can get a, just a little bit of advice from you. So, based on your experience in admission, is there one mistake that international students commonly make? If so, what is it, and do you have any advice for students to fix it? >> Eric, I hope you don't mind if I have more than one. >> [LAUGH] Not at all. >> Doing this for ten years, there are a couple of things that I hope actually, the students taking this course have an advantage over, now that they've heard this. >> Mm-hm. >> My first piece is that international students don't understand the requirements. So they fill out the application, they start, and then it's too late because they are missing something that they didn't know ahead of time. The best example is English Proficiency. So making sure
that you understand those requirements. And if that requirement can be waved, and you don't even need to take that exam for one reason or another. So understanding the requirements. The second piece goes along with that, is that international students should check their application status with each university they apply to, more often than once. Things change, processes change, and so making sure you're staying on top of your application. Santa Clara, like many other universities, allow you to check your application online. So keep that user name and password and check it. >> Mm-hm. >> And then if there's a concern, email us. Because we would like to correct your application if, if there is a mistake in some way. So keeping all your documents in case you need to resend them to us. My last piece of advice is one that I know many admission counselors have many stories about. But it is the way international students may communicate with us. And most prevalent is email which we don't mind, we're here to help you. But its the tone and the way that international students email us. Those that write a nice greeting, sign it with their name, and maybe their I.D. number so we can easily find them. They write out their questions clearly and their grammar's correct. It's a polite email that comes to us. We are so excited to respond to that. It's a pleasant email response. I might give you even more information than you even meant to ask. >> Mm-hm. >> But for those students who write off that their phones in poor grammar. >> Mm-hm. >> They don't have a greeting, a nice greeting, they don't even sign their name. >> Mm-hm. >> Those are tough emails to respond to, and I'm less likely to respond in a way with some additional information. >> Hm. >> Because the tone of the email was inappropriate, when your emailing an admission counselor. >> Mm-hm. >> So I would think before you send those emails and, and think about the response you'd like. And the sweeter the email is, the more professional and polite, the more likely you're going to get a nice response back. >> That is all fantastic advice within the application process. Similarly, if there's a piece of advice that you would just like to share with international students, about anything, what would that be? >> You know I have been doing this for several years at many different universities, and traveled all over attending college fairs or big expos or visiting high schools. My biggest piece of advice is to an international students, if you have not heard of the university. >> Mm-hm. >> Don't discredit that. >> Mm. >> It maybe the perfect University for you. >> Mm-hm. >> There are 4,000 universities in United States, and most Americans can't name them all. >> Mm-hm. >> Or even name ones locally in their neighborhood. >> Hm. >> So I would encourage you to not judge a book by its cover. >> Mm-hm. >> And, do some research, if somebody recommends a university or you attend a college fair, and you stop by a table of a university you've never heard of, do some research. I think you'd be pleasantly surprised by them. >> Becky, thank you so much for being with us today, for taking the time to sit here and answer all of these questions, and for sharing such great information with our student viewers. >> Hm. >> We'll be posting information on the course site, about how you can connect with Becky and Santa Clara University. [BLANK_AUDIO]