

IT TAKES COURAGE: TELLING THE STORIES OF STUDENTS FROM
ELSEWHERE

by

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A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree

MASTER OF ARTS

Major Subject: Communication

West Texas A&M University

Canyon, Texas

May 2011

ABSTRACT

College students often leave their hometowns to go away to school where they experience the challenges of displacement. These challenges are even greater for international students who have diverse language and cultural backgrounds. “It Takes Courage” is a storytelling performance that took place at West Texas A&M University on April 1st, 2011 and featured the stories of *students from elsewhere*, six international students and the out-of-state student performer. Informed by co-cultural theory from intercultural communication and storytelling from performance studies, the performance exploded the construct of “international student” by giving voice to the personal stories of students who have come to the United States for education. The narratives bring insights into international education and intercultural communication as well as well as draw on universal themes of friendship, displacement, loneliness, and adjustment to change.