Our research is based on an international immersion service-learning/research (IISL) experience in a remote village in Moldova. Faculty and students taught journalism and helped local students and community representatives create an online news outlet. Students’ existing conceptions were challenged; we studied how they processed cultural differences through sensemaking. Through it all, we observed transformative learning occur. The IISL experience is grounded in varied disciplines that reveal possible approaches to helping students manage uncertainty, make sense of their circumstances, and achieve transformative learning outcomes when facing challenges beyond student experience.