



Impact Statement

ProjectTitle: Integrating the Arboretum and State Botanical Garden into the Department of Horticulture at the University of Kentucky

Issue: The Arboretum had not been affiliated with any specific academic department or unit at the University of Kentucky and was not fully engaged in academic endeavors such as research, teaching, and outreach. Furthermore, administration at the Arboretum was completely unfamiliar with university operations and had little experience with Arboriculture or Horticulture endeavors.

What has been done: The Arboretum was administratively moved into the Department of Horticulture by the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE), with the understanding that the Chair of the Department would provide leadership in the development and future of the Arboretum, particularly as related to the boards that were advising the Director of the Arboretum. Two boards were advising the Director on administrative issues, procedures, operations, and policies. One board is primarily composed of volunteers called the Friends of the Arboretum. The second board is a composite of individuals from the University and the city of Lexington with two chairs, one appointed by the president of the University of Kentucky and the other appointed by the mayor of Lexington. As chair of the Department of Horticulture, I became an ex-officio member of both boards and the supervisor of the Arboretum Director. While not directly responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Arboretum, I am responsible for oversight of the administrative decisions and policies that effect the University, CAFE and the local community.

Impacts/New Partnerships: There has been an increased use of the Arboretum for instructional and outreach purposes by faculty from CAFE as well as other departments and units on campus. Furthermore, Horticultural facilities, most notably the Horticultural research farm and greenhouses are now readily available for use by Arboretum staff and personnel for plant production, and as a location for fund-raising events.

Outcome of Project (societal impact/ measure of increased quality of life): The Arboretum is much more engaged in academic as well as public endeavors and is a hub for a number of recreational and educational activities. The local community has become more committed than ever before to support the Arboretum and its operations.

How has your project been aided by your FSLI experience? My project required a number of skills that I can honestly say I did not have and would not have had if it had not been for my FSLI experience. While the amount of material I have on hand to refresh my memories of the tools that FSLI has provided me with would fill a large box, I often turn to one simple pamphlet that I keep on hand. It is the one titled “Discover. Grow. Lead. What It Takes To Be Leaders.” Inside I frequently turn to the page titled “Grow” where there is a list of the things that FSLI helps Fellows meet their potential in. Each one of these was instrumental in helping me to deal successfully with the diversity of individuals and organizations in my project, not to mention the negotiation and communication skills necessary for me to demonstrate my leadership skills.

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