

Developing the Engagement of Extension in the Partnership between the University of Missouri and University of the Western Cape (South Africa)

Issue: The 24-year partnership between UM and UWC originated as a result of divesture of UM during apartheid. UWC was a colored university and key to the revolution. Faculty and student exchanges, joint research, etc. and all four UM campuses are involved. Intermittent engagement of extension faculty has occurred but there has been little consistency; yet UWC has strong engagement of its faculty and students within the Western Cape Province.

What has been done: *A tremendous amount of foundational relationship building in a variety of formats*

- a. Face-to-face meetings and development of support of Vice Provost for Extension, former and current UM-UWC director, MU International Center director, and fellow Extension program directors. This yielded initial contacts for exploration at UWC and goals for exploration of establishing an MU Extension-UWC partnership.
- b. Established relationships and conducted Skype meetings and email exchanges with two key UWC faculty; directors at MU and UWC provided legitimacy and key support in planning a visit and activities around identified extension interests of engagement, leadership development, water quality, youth development, healthy communities, and micro-enterprise development. Key meeting help via Skype with leadership at both institutions.
- c. Visit to UWC involved myself and two other MU Extension leaders with focus of mutual learning and exploration. Activities included participation and presentation in 50th Anniversary Celebration Seminar at UWC on community engagement, seminars with UWC faculty and grad students, meetings and dialogue with faculty, field visits with faculty and students to their engagement projects, and discussions/planning with key administrators at UWC.
- d. Reported to MU Extension leadership roundtable of top administrators, program and regional directors, International Center director and began planning of seminars, etc.

Impacts:

- a. Identified key impacts from past involvement of MU Extension faculty
 - b. Developed key relationships with faculty and key administrators at UWC
 - c. UWC faculty reported making new linkages among themselves
 - d. Identified areas of mutual interest with UWC faculty for future collaboration and learning especially around community engagement
 - e. Developed joint commitment and plan between MU Extension and UWC leadership
 - f. Learned about the appropriate cultural approach and importance of relationship building; gained new insights into the food system and integration of teaching, research and outreach
 - g. Garnered interest and commitment of state and regional community development faculty for Web seminars in the planning as first step in implementing plan and future exploration
 - h. Exploration of outside funding sources for future collaboration in progress
- i. Funding Sources, Cooperators, Partners, Mentors etc.:**
- a. University of Missouri non-rate funding and University of the Western Cape
 - b. Cooperators: Michael Quart, Bev Coberly, Jan Persens, Priscilla Daniels, Rod Uphoff, Marion Keim, Sharon Penderis
 - c. Mentors: Michael Quart, Jim Scott, Arlen LeHolm, Rod Uphoff

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