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International Conference on Sustainable Development Completion Report

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Integrated Cluster Project Completion Report

Project Title: International Conference on Sustainable Development

Project Synopsis (objectives & outcomes): Students from a variety of disciplines met with global experts on sustainable development, initiated collaboration with these experts, and applied knowledge to their Fall and Spring projects and conferences.

Project Leader/Leaders: Dr. Filiz Ruhm

1st Funding Cluster: Tourism, Environment & Sustainable Development

2nd Funding Cluster: Choose an item.

3rd Funding Cluster: Choose an item.

Project Activity Code:

Project Duration: 9/20-9/22, 2017

Project Accomplishments Summary Statement:

The 14 PSU students from a variety of disciplines who attended the Conference connected with stakeholders from governments, international organizations, non-profit/for-profit institutions and academics. The students met with several current and past leaders of Sustainable Development including two heads-of-states. They furthered their knowledge on topics including: private sector support for achieving sustainable development goals, progress on climate change, and advancement of the sustainable development goals through environmental peacebuilding and supporting youth solutions. They parlayed these contacts into an agreement with one of the keynote speakers, the Director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness, Dr. Irvin Redlener, who as a Sidore lecturer will speak to PSU community and Community at large in October 2017. Dr. Redlener has agreed to meet with faculty/students and to visit classes pertaining to his expertise.

After the group came back from the conference, they shared what they learned with students in the Model UN Student Organization and the Refugees and Security class. In addition, the students utilized the topics and information presented at the Conference in guiding discussions during the UNSC Simulation of "Displaced Persons/refugee Crisis" at PSU's 9th annual Model UN High School Conference in April 2017. Students also took advantage of the knowledge gained at the Conference in their roles as delegates in UNEP, UNHCR, UN DISEC at the Harvard University World Model UN in Montreal, March 2017. Finally, Nicole Stevens who attended the Conference gave a presentation to the Issues in Sustainability course.

This conference gave our students opportunities to advance their projects. Several students started developing projects for our communities as well as refugees of NH. Three PSU students, who attended the Conference, entered social venture challenge sponsored by UNH, received acceptance to University of William and Mary's Global Innovation Challenge. They put together a project called "Cultural Literacy and Integration into the Workforce: STEM/BRIDGE."

Future Recommendations/ Lessons-learned: This is an annual conference. Being a member of the organization and starting the process in the Spring would make it easier.

Project Documents/Pictures/Videos On-line Archive:

Project Completion Report Date: 5/29/2017

☒ I/We, as Project Leader/Leaders, understand that funding is limited to the scope of this project, that all expenses associated with this project have been filed, and that no reimbursements are possible after the Project Completion Report has been submitted.

Project Assessment Criteria (both Qualitative and Quantitative responses):

High impact outcomes and measureable objectives that were achieved: 14 PSU students gained valuable knowledge, had networking opportunities that led to a world renowned scientist's agreement to visit PSU and seek collaboration with our faculty and students. This also affected 70 high school students conference experience.

Cross disciplinary strengths in service, scholarship, and research in evidence: This project foster collaboration across disciplines. The students, who attended the conferences come from a variety of disciplines including Political Science, Public Management, Biology, Social Science, Anthropology/Sociology, Continuing Education, Marketing and Sales, Accounting, Environmental Science and Policy, Communication and Media Studies.

The conference tooh a very holistic approach to sustainable development, thus panel discussions covered a variety of social issues, including climate change, refugees, youth activism, and sustainability in many areas. "The aim of the conference is to identify and share practical, evidence-based solutions that can support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year's conference theme is **Moving Forward: The SDGs in Practice.** The ICSD provides a unique opportunity to bring together stakeholders from government, academia, the United Nations, international agencies, NGOs, and grassroots organizers to share practical solutions towards the achievement of more sustainable and inclusive societies." Thus, our students connected with many of these stakeholders.

The needs of PSU's external stakeholders and partners that were satisfied: Two students who involved in the project decided to intern at Ascentria Care Alliance, a refugee assistance and resettlement organization, and received very high evaluations from their site supervisor. PSU Students also used the information they gained during PSU's Annual Model UN high school conference, serving the region's high school students.

- ☐ Primary PSU resources (e.g., faculty; staff; facilities; funding) that were utilized: Dr. Filiz Ruhm was the lead organizer of the trip. TESD, Social Science Department and PSU Model UN Student Organization provided the funding.
- ☐ Quantity of Students participating in experiential, high impact learning: 14 PSU students and 70 high school students.

- ☐ Academic disciplines employed in real world social issues / problem-solving: Political Science, Public Management, Biology, Social Science, Anthropology/Sociology, Continuing Education, Marketing and Sales, Accounting, Environmental Science and Policy, Communication and Media Studies.

- ☐ PSU skills, knowledge, and experience competencies to be reapplied in the future: The connections I established and the knowledge I developed will definitely affect all the courses I teach at PSU.

- ☐ Growth opportunities for future PSU participants and stakeholders/partners: Two students, now PSU alumni, who attended the conference will be working as legal assistants for large law firms. Both of them are hoping to attend law school the following year and considering focusing on immigration or international law.

- ☐ Potential ideas for growth, development, continued enrichment, & external investments: I am hoping that our institution will become a member of Sustainable Development Solutions Network: A Global Initiative for the United Nations, which organizes this conference annually as well as other programs for local communities. I briefly discussed the membership with TESD Cluster Guide, Dr. Adam Keul. I plan to pursue this further.

- ☐ Direct linkage evidence to PSU and cluster vision and mission: The project is interdisciplinary; strengthens and leads to community service projects, like Model UN High School Conference, and successful PSU representation at Harvard University's World Model UN Conference.

Instructions for the Integrated Cluster Project Completion Report

Please follow the following guidelines in completing this form:

Project Title: Enter the Title used in the original Project Proposal Documentation

Project Synopsis (objectives & outcomes): 30 word maximum; capture the project objectives and most significant outcomes for the project. This synopsis should be written for potential use in our internal communications and external Marketing/PR activities.

Project Leader/Leaders: List the name(s) and title(s) of the PSU Project Leader or Leaders

1st Funding Cluster: Select the primary funding IC from the drop-down menu

2nd Funding Cluster: Select the secondary funding IC or "N/A" from the drop-down menu

3rd Funding Cluster: Select the tertiary funding IC or "N/A" from the drop-down menu

Project Activity Code: if funded by Integrated Cluster/Clusters**,** enter the 6 character financial accounting Activity Code assigned to this project.

Project Duration: Enter the Project duration, including start and completion dates; note if this is a first phase of an ongoing project.

Project Accomplishments Summary Statement: Prepare a brief statement of the accomplishments achieved by this project; limit the length to 200 words maximum. Statement should be easily understood and interpreted by non-experts and be crafted for use across PSU (Staff; Faculty; Students) and with external audiences.

Future Recommendations/ Lessons-learned: Briefly summarize how external partners/ constituents and PSU faculty, staff, and students could benefit from specific future improvements in planning, engaging, and executing similar projects.

Project Documents/Pictures/Videos On-line Archive: post the link to on-line project resources captured in this project, especially, pictures, videos, "Quotable Quotes" and other project documents.

Project Completion Report Date: Use the drop-down calendar to select the date this report was completed

Check-box: Click on the check-box to confirm the following: I/We, as Project Leader/Leaders, understand that funding is limited to the scope of this project, that all expenses associated with this project have been filed, and that no reimbursements are possible after the Project Completion Report has been submitted.

Project Assessment Criteria (both Qualitative and Quantitative responses): Provide text inputs for each of the ten Project Guideline attributes. It is especially important to include both the qualitative accomplishments and quantitative results achieved in completing this project.

Addenda Section: If required, use an Addenda section to incorporate any additional material deemed import in documenting this project.