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International Perspectives in CEnR

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Location

VCU ASPIRE, 835 W. Grace St., Richmond VA

Disciplines

Higher Education

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International Community-Engaged Research

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May 13, 2015

Research in South Africa

- * Cervical Cancer Prevention, Cape Town (R25, R03)
- * Community Engaged Research, Kenneth Gardens, Durban (Global Education Office, International Partnership Award)

Approach

- * Local stakeholders assisted in shaping the research questions
- * Established a Community Advisory Board
- * Partnership with CANSA
- * Partnership with the Department of Education
- * Hired local management staff
- * Trained community members as community researchers
- * Conducted formative research
- * Conducted focus groups

Research Question

- * Explore the the mother-daughter relationship and the feasibility of using the adolescent daughter to provide her mother with cancer screening information

Research

- * Trained 7 community researchers
- * 2 academic researchers from South Africa
- * 2 academic researchers from the US
- * Project Coordinator (CG)
- * Project Supervisor (DVS)
- * Mother-daughter semi-structured interviews (N=314)
- * Transcription and Qualitative data analysis in South Africa

Building Global Bridges

Community-engaged research

- * Partnership with University of KwaZulu Natal, Durban
- * Addressed local need
- * Local partners part of the planning/grant process
- * VCU-UKZN student teams
- * VCU-UKZN academic partnership



Research Questions

- * How do residents of Kenneth Gardens perceive the health of their community?
- * What are the benefits and barriers to utilizing services through a local health clinic?



Core Research Components Completed

- * Youth Photo voice (N=14)
- * Semi-structured interviews of elders and clinic users (N=28)
- * 6 VCU students + photographer and 5 UKZN students







Community-engaged Outcomes

- * Data dissemination in Kenneth Gardens and to key stakeholders
- * Building capacity (learners and students)
- * Co-learning
- * Student-led publication
- * VCU-UKZN peer-reviewed publication
- * Published photo book of research
- * Conference presentations
- * Video documentary – won awards
- * Secured resources for the Kenneth Gardens Clinic

How does Building Global Bridges create stronger student researchers?

- * Active learning
 - * Real-world experience
 - * Apply and cultivate skills learned in the classroom
 - * Learn skills on the ground that cannot be taught in class
 - * Gain experience in new research methodologies (Photo Voice)
- * Introduces the field of research as a career option
 - * Facilitates transition from student to researcher
- * Orientation into the international research and public health community
 - * Opportunities to meet experts in the field
 - * Establish new contacts for potential future collaborations

How does Building Global Bridges develop culturally competent researchers?

- * Knowledge-building across many contexts
 - * cross-cultural learning
 - * interdisciplinary learning
 - * inter-institutional learning
- * Builds cross-cultural relationships and networks
- * Enhanced insights to differences in health care service delivery

How does Building Global Bridges build commitment to scholarship?

- * Exposure to different types of research and methodologies
 - * Community-engaged research as a framework
 - * Photo Voice
- * Seeing research translated to tangible results can be a rewarding experience
 - * Collaboration with community partners
- * Develops student leaders in the research context
 - * Mentoring opportunity builds capacity
 - * Solidifies research interests
 - * Invaluable cross-cultural, international collaborations and co-learning

What are the tangible outcomes from Building Global Bridges?

- * Higher research outputs
- * More marketable students
- * Increased student independence and leadership skills
- * Potential of future scholarship opportunities
- * Development of more post-graduate students
- * Strengthening of ties between international institutions
- * Establish relationships with communities through research and data dissemination







Key Elements of International Community-engaged research

- * Partnerships
- * Research Question of Interest to the Community
- * Local Policy and Context
- * Building Capacity
- * Asset based
- * Co-learning
- * Mutual benefit
- * Sustainable



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