Inspiring Generational Change: Reconnecting Relationship to Community, Land and Education

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National Outreach Scholarship Conference
October 1, 2012
University of Alabama
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
GUIDING FOUNDATIONS

Ileana Ruelas, Community Outreach Coordinator,
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Voices

I ka wā ma mua, ka wā ma hope
the time in front, is the time that is behind

• Carve spaces for stories to surface (individual & collective)
• Listen & create room for each voice to be heard
• Honor stories of struggles/processes that emerge
• Build upon collective wisdom
• Identify core building blocks of strategic planning, goal setting, milestone markers
“...this relationship between the people and the land was and is expressed as ‘aloha ‘āina’ (love for the land). The land is deity and the land is beloved family; people feed the land and the land feeds the people; the landscape itself, even rocks (or especially rocks) are part of the living world and are beloved.” - Noenoe Silva

- Strengthen relationship through stories, sharing different types of work, and planning processes
- Integrate knowledge gained through traditional practice and academic praxis
- Allow time for connections to be strengthened via questions, conflict, building clarity from confusion, communication differences, and reaffirmed commitment to common purpose
Application

• Base program specifics – around content knowledge of organizations and resources that are available in the community
• Intentionally ground actions in community history, voice, choice, and power
• Continue rhythm of creating space for stories to be heard and relationships to be built
• Connect core building blocks to long term strategic goals
• Debrief, Evaluate, & Communicate
• Increase family identity through cultural, historical and political knowledge.
• Family Engagement
• Generational learning
• Concrete learning through cultural practice.
• Increase parent knowledge about post-secondary options for their children.
• Learn to document their stories and share their voice.
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<th>Theme</th>
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<th>INPEACE Keiki Steps (Early education)</th>
<th>UHM (Video/Lectures/group discussion)</th>
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<td>Ola Ka Inoa Naming Practices Earl Kawaʻa</td>
<td>Haʻawina pilihonua October 18 Computers</td>
<td>Leinaʻala Heine - Papa, Wakea, Haumea, Creation August 16</td>
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<td>ʻĀina Land</td>
<td>Lawaiʻa-Fishing Abe Nahulu</td>
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<td>Haʻi moʻolelo Story</td>
<td>Lūʻau/Hōʻike-Party Food Preparation</td>
<td>Story Telling February 21 Computers</td>
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20 families
100 participants
Commitment
9 workshops, 3 hours, monthly
Food
Childcare
Incentive
Social media and technology
Community Engagement and Outreach Scholarship Grant Awards

Konia Freitas, Assistant Specialist, University of Hawaii at Manoa

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University of Hawaii at Manoa

- Only public institution of higher education in Hawaii.
- Unique responsibility to the indigenous peoples of Hawaii (UHM Strategic Plan, 2011 – 2015) to:
  - Promote scholarly work that informs policies and practices that benefit communities.
  - Expand internships, practica, mentoring, and service learning.
  - Increase partnerships and sharing of expertise with community organizations.
Education, research and practice are linked to community needs, visions and aspirations.

Engagement structure: types and scale of activities.

Historical (and current) challenges of research exploitation -- CE covenant.

1. Community perspective matters.
2. Relationships are enduring, mutually beneficial and two way engagements.
3. Resources align with community based visions.
4. Students apply course work to real world experiences.
Scope of Projects Funded

- High school literary curriculum development project.
- Defining Hawaiian place based education.
- Field course in Malama Aina (Haena).
- Wehe I ka Papale - Engaged research.
- Filmmaking workshop.
“Piko” Film Making Workshop

- Value of collaboration.
- Intergenerational learning.
- Integration of sacred site in telling stories about our contemporary lives.
- Integration of applied learning, technology and traditional knowledge.
Action

- Reflect upon applying these concepts to your context
- Explore stories & strengthen connections
  - with departments on campus that share common goals
  - with organizations embedded in your communities
- Be mindful of intentionally weaving intergenerational/cultural knowledge into core aspects of program building
Mahalo Nui!
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