Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities
Jessica Barlow, PhD
What if we could connect existing courses to a single city over an academic year to work on critical and vexing projects identified by city staff and do so at a scale that magnifies the value for all?
SCALE of the EPIC MODEL

500+ STUDENTS

15-20 PROJECTS

10+ DISCIPLINES

20-25 FACULTY MEMBERS

25-35 COURSES

40-60,000 HOURS OF EFFORT TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY
How EPIC is Different

• Large-scale
• Multi-disciplinary
• Opt-in by faculty
• Not new curricula
• Community-identified projects
• No permission necessary at University
• Fee-based, partner has “skin in the game”
• Catalytic

All based on University resources that already exist.
Model Expansion: Training

- Annual conference
- Specially commissioned (regional) workshops
- Site visits and ongoing technical support
Stakeholders

GLOBAL ADAPTATION NETWORK

ICMA
Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

UN Environment Programme

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

GUPES
Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability

dac
Durban Adaptation Charter

ICCCRN
Urban Climate Change Research Network

United Nations
Climate Change

Resilient Cities 2017
Timeline of activities

- Outreach (2016)
  - Resilient Cities 2016
  - Habitat III
  - UNEP/UNEPCC Lima webinar
- Workshops (2017)
  - Resilient Cities 2017
  - Cape Town, South Africa
- Outreach (2018)
  - Global Adaptation Network Forum
  - Resilient Cities 2018
- Pending workshops
  - Manila (APAN)
  - Abu Dhabi (Zayed U)
Resilient Cities 2017 (Bonn, Germany)

• One-day training (May 3)
• 150 city-university pairs of applicants, 18 selected
• Universities and cities from the global south (Latin America, Africa, Asia)
• 30 observers from numerous international organizations
• 80 attendees in total
• 4 main trainers (Marc, Nico, Jessica, Courtney), plus Kristofer attended (unfunded) to provide additional international context
• Interest in regional workshops in Ecuador, South Africa, Philippines
Cape Town, South Africa

• 1.5-day regional workshop for sub-Saharan Africa
• 8 city-university pairs, plus observers
• Training by Marc, Nico, Courtney, Jessica
• Presentations by Edna, Gilbert, and Sean (trained in Bonn)
• Established regional EPIC network, EPIC Africa
  http://naturalsciences.unza.zm/epic
Model Expansion: The EPIC Network

Over 30 EPIC programs in the US and around the globe in Brazil, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, and Zambia
Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities

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Sample Projects

win-win-win
Improving Transportation Choices

Bicycle Transportation

Marc Schlossberg
Planning

Last year in Redmond, 15 of 17 student ideas were adopted by policy within 6 months.

Sustainable Cities Initiative
Improving Transportation Choices
Bicycle Transportation
Pedestrian Safety
Traffic Calming

Generated: Community Support & Successful Grant Funding of 2018 Construction

Sustainable Cities Initiative
Improving Transportation Choices

Bicycle Transportation
Pedestrian Connectivity
Preservation

Generated Voter Support to: Purchase & Protect 665 Acres, Design & Construct 2 Paths

Sustainable Cities Initiative
Improving Wayfinding

Community Values
Place Making
Planning
Design
Economic Security and Sense of Place

Way-finding System
Patricia Cue Couttolenc
Graphic Design

Resulted in over $1 million in wayfinding grants for National City, CA
Economic Revitalization

Industrial By-Product Re-Use
Jennifer Howard-Grenville Business

Resulted in $800,000+ in cost savings and revenue annually
Now part of regional economic development strategy

Sustainable Cities Initiative
Air Quality and Urban Health

Freeway and Industry Impact and Mitigation

Zohir Chowdhury
Public Health
Rainwater Sites
Water Management
Communicate
Design
Build
Educate
Engaging Marginalized Communities

Cultural Mapping in Northeast Salem
Doug Blandy and John Fehn
Arts and Administration

Salem Latino Civic Engagement
Gerardo Sandoval Planning

Resulted in new participation on city boards, commissions, and elected office and better relationships with city officials.

Sustainable Cities Initiative
Improving Community Health

Health Impacts of Climate Change
Zohir Chowdhury
Public Health

First US application of UN Habitat Guiding Principles toolkit