

imagination
innovation
commitment



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Creativity and Commitment:
Internationalization of the
university while strengthening
local connections and
relevance in the region



Presented at the 2008 CONAHEC
Conference in Monterrey, Mexico
By: Sheila Young, Director, Brock International

Top Reasons for Internationalization

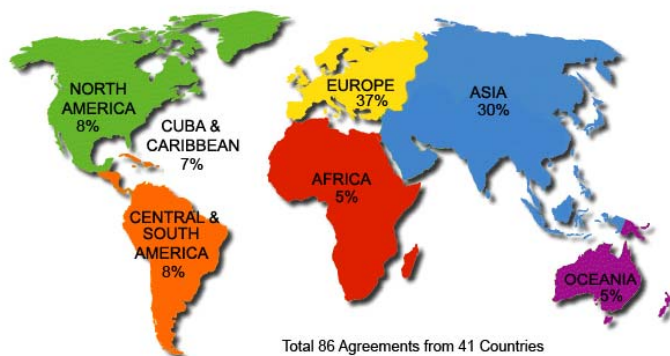
(Source: 2005 IAU Global Survey Report)

- ❖ Mobility and Exchanges for Students and Teachers
- ❖ Teaching and Research Collaboration
- ❖ Co-operation and Development Assistance
- ❖ Curriculum Development
- ❖ International and Intercultural Understanding
- ❖ Promotion and Profile of Institution
- ❖ Diversify Source of Faculty and Students
- ❖ Regional Issues and Integration
- ❖ International Student Recruitment



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Brock's International Agreements by Continent



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Examples of Current International Development or Collaborative Research Projects

- ❖ **Mexico-Canada Joint Health Research program in Tuberculosis - (CIHR)**
A sociological estimate of pulmonary tuberculosis in mexican agricultural workers in Canada
Partner institution: Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla (**Mexico**)
- ❖ **Teasdale-Corti Global Health Research Initiative / IDRC – funded program**
Increasing Capacity to Achieve Millennium Development Goal #6 in Honduras: Combating Infectious Diseases
Partner institution: National Autonomous University of Honduras (**Honduras**)
- ❖ **Canada-European Union Programme for Cooperation in Higher Education, Training and Youth**
Advocacy and Leadership: Enhancing educational and employment opportunities for person with disabilities
Partner institution: Gent University (**Belgium**)
- ❖ **Building on Success – University Partnership in Cooperation and Development – AUCC & CIDA**
Salud Escolar Integral: Teaching non-violence in El Salvador
Partner institution: Pedagogica University (**El Salvador**)
- ❖ **Education Leadership & Collaboration project (Government of Canada)**
Understanding gender and leadership roles in Canadian and South African universities
Partner institution: North-West University (**South Africa**)



Community Engagement

- For the university, community engagement refers to activities that generate mutual benefits for and forge fruitful relationships between the university and its communities. It is based on recognition of the mutually beneficial reciprocal relationships that can exist between higher education institutions and the communities in which they are based.
- The university has been focusing on and including community engagement in its mission, vision and values, and more formally in its strategic plan.
- Community engagement is strongly linked with research at the institution. Collaborative research may be carried out with industries, NGOs, and communities - locally, regionally and internationally – and can focus on projects that are responsive to the needs of the people.



Brock University Vision

By 2010 Brock will be recognized locally, nationally and internationally

- ❖ **Strong community engagement** by way of research collaborations with industry, industry consortia, public sector agencies, non-governmental agencies, Canadian and international universities
- ❖ **Leader** in research and innovation for the Niagara region
- ❖ **Advanced research and innovation** to impact positively on Niagara's social, health and economic well-being
- ❖ **Reputation** as a leader of tomorrow in the education and training of undergraduate and graduate students



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2014 Academic Plan

Knowledge, Engagement & Transformation

1 of 4 main focus areas - *Community Outreach*

- ❖ **Development of national and international partnerships through which Brock researchers, both faculty and students, can strengthen the communities with which they interact**
- ❖ **Encourage student leadership in local, national and global activities through research, development and social advocacy**



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Local → Global

- ❖ Researchers in CCOVI are using technology to identify aroma compounds found in Canadian ice wines
- ❖ Canada is now a world leader in ice wine production, and Brock's research in Niagara region will identify chemical and sensory markers unique to Canadian ice wines
- ❖ This research is of critical importance to the Wine Council and Vintner's Quality Alliance of Ontario, as it may provide a means of protecting the Canadian industry from the sale of counterfeit ice wines in overseas markets.



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Global → Local

Solidarity Experiences Abroad (SEA) - Coordinated by **Campus Ministries**

Provides a unique international opportunity to explore social justice through a series of volunteer placements and community development. Students are encouraged to engage in a variety of volunteer opportunities and spiritual experiences. Students receive exposure other cultures through language classes, outings, lectures, and hands-on volunteer work in local communities with local people.

Since SEA began in 2004, over 300 Brock students have made the decision to engage in this innovative program. Students work in a variety of areas gaining valuable practical experience in education, healthcare, or sustainable development. Students agree that it is unlike anything they have experienced in University. Through the experience they develop a deeper sense of global awareness and a greater inspiration to develop their personal career goals.

One Brock student who participated in SEA in Peru, returned to Brock and established BRIK (Brock Relieving International Kids) in Fall 2005 – a new student organization aiming to increase awareness of challenges faced by children in third world countries, and in the process raise funds, promote interaction, and volunteer interests.



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Local → Global → Local








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Global → Local

- ❖ 4-year Global Health Research Initiative “Teasdale-Corti” grant with partners in Honduras developing graduate program on infectious and zoonotic diseases
- ❖ Led to numerous field courses on “Global Health” for Brock and Honduran students here and abroad
- ❖ CIHR-funded research project on pulmonary tuberculosis in Mexican agricultural workers in Canada, along with university partner in Puebla... led to many new connections to local farms and public health organizations in our local region
- ❖ Led to research and internship opportunities for Brock graduate students – new perspectives on outreach (globally and locally)



Dr. Ana Sanchez, faculty member in Community Health Sciences says: **“all** my research comes back into the classroom...”



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Local → Global → Local

Brock International offers 3 formal programs for visiting scholars:

Visiting International Professor
 Visiting International Scholar
 University Mentorship program

- ❖ These programs facilitate and lead to new networks for faculty / researchers / students
- ❖ New courses have been introduced - internationalized curriculum at Brock
- ❖ Senior administrator invited to present at international partner conference speaking about university agenda for local regional engagement
- ❖ International scholars participate in volunteerism - heritage language and cultural centres and other community events, enriching our local communities with their contributions and presence while they are here participating at Brock



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Challenges to Internationalization

- ❖ Lack of policy/strategy to facilitate the process
- ❖ Lack of financial support
- ❖ Administrative inertia or difficulties
- ❖ Competing priorities
- ❖ Issue of non-recognition of work done abroad
- ❖ Lack of reliable and comprehensive information
- ❖ Lack of opportunities
- ❖ Lack of understanding of what is involved
- ❖ Insufficiently trained or qualified staff to guide the process



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Challenges to Local / Community Engagement

- ❖ Limited financial support
- ❖ Lack of rewards / incentive scheme, compared to more typical research & teaching recognition
- ❖ Lack of awareness of importance of this work to the university
- ❖ Increased workload



Source: AUCC Momentum Report

Conclusion

From both an “internationalization” and a “local / community engagement” perspective, the cost of “insularity” is too high for us as higher education institutions.

Sociologist Roland Robertson popularized the term, glocalization to describe the tempering effects of local conditions on global pressures. Robertson said that glocalization "means the simultaneity --- the co-presence --- of both universalizing and particularizing tendencies."

Think ***and*** act ***glocal*** !

Gracias tanto.

