

**Uncharted Territory:  
Creation of Interactive Online International Community Courses**

**Contributors:** Dr. Carolyn Anderson and Yasmin Dean

The internationalist agenda in the twenty first century is dominated by social justice and health issues including global poverty, war & peace, human rights, health, environmentalism and education. Practitioners, activists, volunteers and students are clamoring for more information and strategies for how to work on global issues. This demand for relevant course work has been partially answered through our conception, design and delivery of an interactive, online course focusing on international development goals.

The purpose of our interactive demonstration is to share with participants the journey of how this course was conceived, funded and delivered online to students across geographical and cultural borders. The online environment has opened doors by enabling students from a variety of cultural and linguistic backgrounds to actively participate in highly interactive learning activities. This same environment has also challenged course developers to deliver course materials that are current, technologically appropriate, culturally sensitive, and sufficiently global in scope.

Our struggles and victories of this process will be shared through an interactive presentation that invites participants to gain understanding of course outcomes and content. Most importantly, learning to create 'community' within the online environment will be shared.

By the end of the presentation, participants will have accomplished three outcomes. The first is to recognize the advantages that online technology offers toward meeting international development goals. The second outcome is to recognize the inherent complexities and benefits of working with students from around the world. The third outcome is for participants to begin to reflect upon the constantly evolving learning opportunities that today's technology facilitates.

Preferred Length: 90 minutes

## Workshop Outline: Pan Commonwealth Conference / 2

Contributors: Dr. Carolyn Anderson and Yasmin Dean

### Workshop Outline: Pan Commonwealth Conference

- I. **Introductions** (2 minutes)
- II. **Workshop Agenda** (2 minutes)
- III. **Project Overview** (5 minutes) (Powerpoint)
  - a. How the project was initiated (example from credit course)
  - b. Project Background – evolved from credit course (funding from CBIE) + consumer demand and student need
  - c. E-Campus Alberta Funding – Letters of Support from stakeholders
  - d. “It Takes A Village”: Explanation of Institutional Communication Flow for Project Development
- IV. **Demonstration of certificate program** (15 minutes)
- V. **Struggles and Victories** (45 minutes)
  - a. Where in the world...are students from? (Map of students)
  - b. Creation of Community – sharing of home pages / sharing discussions
  - c. Example of Innovative Assignments
  - d. Cultural Sensitivities (Discussion: What are the potential challenges in having an open course and how do we prepare students to be open to these conflicts?)
  - e. Discrepancies in user-ability
  - f. Complexities and Benefits of working with international audiences
  - g. Reflections regarding evolving technologies – keeping pace
- VI. **Questions and Comments** (10 minutes)