Pace University
DigitalCommons@Pace

Cornerstone 3 Reports : Interdisciplinary Informatics

The Thinkfinity Center for Innovative Teaching, Technology and Research

7-12-2010

Creation of an Interdisciplinary Program in Management, Technology and Sustainability Through Community Outreach and Empowerment

Claudia G. Green
Lubin School of Business, Pace University

Jonathan Hill
Seidenberg School of CSIS, Pace University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/cornerstone3

Recommended Citation
Green, Claudia G. and Hill, Jonathan, "Creation of an Interdisciplinary Program in Management, Technology and Sustainability Through Community Outreach and Empowerment" (2010). *Cornerstone 3 Reports : Interdisciplinary Informatics.* Paper 31.
http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/cornerstone3/31

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the The Thinkfinity Center for Innovative Teaching, Technology and Research at DigitalCommons@Pace. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cornerstone 3 Reports : Interdisciplinary Informatics by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Pace. For more information, please contact rracelis@pace.edu.

PACE UNIVERSITY

Thinkfinity Grant Status Mid Project Report

Title of the Project: Creation of an Interdisciplinary Program in Management, Technology and Sustainability Through Community Outreach and Empowerment

Cornerstone III

Principal Investigators: Claudia G. Green, PhD, Lubin School of Business
Jonathan Hill, DPS, Assistant Dean, Seidenberg School of Computer Information Systems

Date: June 1, 2010

A) Please outline your original goals.

Our original goals include the following:

- Establishing an interdisciplinary course structure between Lubin & Seidenberg
- Using an established service learning travel course to develop a foundation for international exchange and education via a series of collaborative international projects; the Green Maps for Ilha Grande and Paraty and the creation of a new, Web-based digital pen pal application to foster exchange between Brazilian and American school children.
- Leveraging Web 2.0 technologies to develop a learning process for K – 12 students in the US and Brazil, served by Pace students and faculty, that provides a platform for ongoing interaction and collaboration between Brazilian and US students and faculty.

B) What progress have you made towards your original goals on your project to date?

The progress has been significant and has provided us with great 'proof-of-concept' for additional grant proposals. All three web applications (currently being moved to their permanent server homes) are nearly complete and provide an excellent visual, smartphone accessible view of our projects. The student/faculty team who has been working on the project during this academic year remains intact and working to grow the program. It is important to note that this project is sustainable and, due to the strong interest level among the Brazilian and American partners, has allowed us to develop a multi-year plan to meet the demand for the project.

C) Has your project impacted students? If so, how many?

More than 10 Pace students (from Lubin Seidenberg and Dyson) worked on this project during the academic year. 40 Pace students traveled with us to Brazil, implementing our project in Rio de Janeiro, Isla Grande and Paraty. In addition we have involved grade school students from the Island School in the East Village and middle school students from the Isaac Newton School in East Harlem who have begun collaborating with their Brazilian counterparts. You can read more about our experience at the Escola Pace in Rio de Janeiro via the most recent Seidenberg School e-Communique article:
http://support.csis.pace.edu/CSISWeb/webContent/eCommunique/eCommunique-Spring-2010.html

Please see the following video to experience our project:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dz0XJ6R2G0M

D) Has your project impacted other faculty members? If so, how many?

The success of our project has influenced other faculty to work toward building interdisciplinary courses and to look to build service learning-based travel programs. At least two interdisciplinary programs are currently in development between Seidenberg and Lubin and Seidenberg and Dyson and there is every evidence that more will follow in the fall semester. In addition, we have developed contacts with University faculty in Brazil and in Norway who are interested in collaborating on this project.

E) What are your next steps?

With strong interest in our work and a network of schools in Brazil and New York wishing to use our Amigis Digitais platform, we are deep in the expansion process . We have 'customers' in grade school teachers and administrators in two cities in Brazil and with two schools here in New York. In addition, the Isla Grande and Paraty Green Maps will go live this summer. Because of the serious interest in our project, we are currently seeking funding to expand. This will provide teacher training, stipends for Pace students and faculty to continue to build our applications and the necessary technology to maintain the communication between the Brazilian and American participants.