Mobilizing theory, practice and research to create sustainable futures: challenges and innovations in CD education.
Common themes of intros

- Service learning
- Student engagement
- Interdisciplinary
Summary of pre-conference session

- 42 participants
- Lots of different theories underlying teaching
- Need a common web site for posting syllabi and teaching resources
- Need to nurture an entrepreneurial spirit to help students be creative in identifying career choices
- There are some studies going on as to the availability of CD educational options
What’s new and different in teaching

- Giving students the confidence to use new practices and perspectives to do CD – civic and social entrepreneurship
- Emphasizing that failure and missing the mark are ok because we learn from failure and especially from recovering from failure
- Emphasis on understanding the importance and how to engage in cross-cultural conversations
- Historically, research for those going on to a PHD. But now realize that research is a practical tool and essential for successful CD programs
- On-line program focuses on community where they live or work.
- Emphasis on the importance of a recognition of the challenges of diversity
What’s new and different in teaching

- For own program have identified core concepts that are essential for students to experience.
- Preparing students to challenge their own organizations on demands that conflict with our core understanding of CD practice – dimensions of power, time deadlines of grant driven programming
- Working to find the sweet spot between theory and practice so graduates have the foundation to intervene, facilitate, inform change
- Have established a certificate on Building Native Communities and Economies
What’s the challenges

- What’s best for the students is not necessarily best for the communities and what’s best for the communities is not necessarily best for the students.
- Preparing students to enter into communities to work on internships or in service projects.
- “Doing for” vs “Doing with” differences in student views on what is CD and how change occurs.
- Helping students understand the value and application of theory to the practice of CD, especially figuring out what works/doesn’t work and why.
- The mechanics of scheduling doing and travel and distribution of responsibilities is very challenging given their work and class schedules.
What’s the challenges

- If program is career oriented, finding and capturing position in work world AND one that pays well is not easy to promise

- Developing a common language among practitioners and among the communities and then, the stories the local can provide to explain their social world.
Emerging research used in teaching

- Spatial analysis of communities and especially in rural places
- Participatory narrative inquiry to amplify evaluation of CD efforts as well as how progress made or not, as well as information on why progress made or not made
- Needs to be grounded in an understanding of assets/narratives of those who are in the community (walk along)
- Applying different methods that respond to the basis of knowledge and power in the CD process
- Engaging students in all phases of CD projects through action for all different phases
Emerging research used in teaching

- To what extent is education on fund-raising important? Increasingly very important – especially the logic model based grantsmanship

- Integrating inequalities as a fact that needs to be acknowledged, understood and confronted as a practitioner

- Sustainable livelihoods framework – what do you need to know to be able to acknowledge and function in a community of differential power

- Importance of integrating research and theory and then integrating research-based knowledge as well as understanding of inequalities in CD practice

- Importance of network weaving and instinct (repeated habits of behavior)
Emergent common themes

- Integration of learning and practice
- Recognition of and capacity to apply knowledge of cultural differences
- Recognition of and capacity to apply knowledge of inequalities
- Key importance of listening
- Need to evaluate our curriculum against the Principles of Practices and the Hustedde et al article on CD Teaching and Learning
Emergent common themes - Core competencies and knowledge?

- Holistic and instinct-based vision of community dynamics and an ability to create communities
- Value of effective listening
- Value of local knowledge and understandings
- Recognition of the value of diverse disciplinary perspectives
- An ability to encourage collaboration and collective problem solving