



TLEF Small Projects – Final Report

*To be completed for Small Projects upon completion of the project.
Please limit this report to a maximum of 2 pages.*

Project Title:

Geography Professional Leadership Network (12G26015)

Report Submission Date:

2015/10/05

Principal Investigator:

Dr Marwan Hassan

Project Initiation Date:

2013/02/22

Report Submitted By:

Marwan Hassan

Project Completion Date:

2015/10/05

Summary of Work Accomplished

Describe if and how the project has significantly contributed to the enhancement of teaching and learning, as well as if and how the project outcomes constitute sustainable benefits to students.

Over the course of the last three years, the Professional Leadership Network (PLN) project has successfully grown a network of professionals and industry leaders that are directly relevant to the research work and interests of current graduate students in the Geography Department. This database has been used to foster connections between the Department and industry through events such as the Geography Open house in Sept 2014, the departmental colloquium series, the 2015 Graduate Symposium, and the mentorship program reception and mentorship program orientation dinners. These events provided valuable networking opportunities for Geography students in relation to future employment prospects and potential graduate research partnerships with industry leaders. More specifically, the project has integrated this ‘real-world’ learning and life skills acquisition through three highly successful cohorts of the PLN Mentorship Program. Over the past three years, the mentorship program component of the PLN brought together 64 participants into productive relationships with one another, allowing for the transfer of knowledge that is not readily available in the Geography graduate program. It allows for an educational relationship to be forged between a working professional and a soon-to-be graduated student that sheds light on many aspects of non-academic post-graduate school professional opportunities for students seeking such a path. The PLN network related events have also provided a unique opportunity for out-of-the-classroom, real-world learning through mentorship and networking events. While the Department is well known within academic circles, the PLN has also raised the awareness of the Department amongst local and provincial business and NGO organizations.

Evaluation of Project Outcomes

Describe the outcome-based criteria used to evaluate the project’s success or performance.

Prior to the initiation of the Professional Leadership Network project, there was no database of professionals willing to work with Geography graduate students or participate in Departmental events. As a result of this project, the department now has more than 150 professionals and over 130 graduate students associated with the PLN. The mentorship component of the PLN impacted the lives of 64 graduate students and mentors through their participation in the program. The overall success of the program has been gauged through verbal and written feedback from participants in departmental and mentorship events plus a mid-point follow-up survey that was conducted with mentorship program participants. The PLN will continue to impact the life of the Department through the open invitation to all PLN members to continue to attend departmental events such as the Colloquium Series and the Annual Graduate



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