

**Purcell Reflection**  
**2017 KSU Perspectives on Global Issues Workshop – Sustainability**

Few professional development experiences rival my participation in the 2017 KSU Perspectives on Global Issues Workshop - Sustainability at the European Academy of Otzenhausen, Germany. The workshop and associated travel with colleagues from across the university was a transformative learning experience that has generated numerous benefits to my teaching, scholarship, and service roles within the university and beyond. The experience also challenged me to reconsider strategies for faculty development that I have implemented at KSU. Specifically, the content and experiences informed a course redesign, informed a research thread, and helped me to broaden my university network.

In Fall 2017, I was tasked with leading the internal Quality Matters recertification of LDRS 3400: Service as Leadership, which emphasized servant leadership and social change leadership theories. In its previous form, the course exposed students to local and global social, political, and economic issues as the premise for the emergence of social change leadership theories. The UN Sustainable Development Goals presented during the EAO workshop provided an excellent framework from which my students can begin to analyze social issues and appropriate leadership responses. I developed and piloted a module focused on the UN goals and later integrated the module into the course for the internal QM review. The course received its recertification, and now each online section of LDRS 3400 will include the module of the UN goals as informed by my participation in the workshop.

Following the workshop, I have also continued my exploration of sustainability theories and practices within organizations and their leadership. Specifically, I am reviewing literature on leadership continuity, including development and succession planning, within academic

leadership. My dissertation research tangentially referenced this body of literature, and I became more interested following paper presentations and subsequent conversations from an international research conference hosted in the Fall 2016. This work is promising, and I currently have two external research collaborations that have been influenced by reflections and connections drawn from the content presented during the workshop.

As a leadership educator, I fully appreciate the myriad benefits of collaborative learning, immersion experiences, and education abroad; however, it is rare that educators enjoy such programs directed at their own learning. Spending a week with colleagues in a learning environment was an incredibly rewarding experience. I learned more about the superb work being conducted across the university and established relationships that have guided my work since returning stateside. Research supports the positive impact of combined living and learning environments for students, and I think the workshop provided a similar space for development for our faculty. It was certainly helpful for me to engage with colleagues formally in the classroom setting and informally over meals and even activities. These combined experiences made for an exceptional learning experience.

In sum, I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to participate in the 2017 KSU Perspectives on Global Issues Workshop and appreciate the university's investment in my professional and personal development. I am pleased with the ways in which my work has been informed by my experience and think the products that emerged from my learning provide value to our students and my discipline. I have encouraged colleagues to apply for future workshops and look forward to future opportunities for faculty development.