

## **Perspective on Global Issues Workshop: “Partnerships for the Future”**

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These days, globalization is on the rise and different countries are dependent with each other. In summer 2019, I was fortunate enough to be included in the Faculty Professional Development Program held in Germany. This workshop helped me broaden my network, foster deeper connections, and truly appreciate the importance of sustainability and collaboration during changing times. The purpose of this paper is to discuss the lessons I learned from this invaluable experience and to enumerate some of the activities that I will be creating to enable student engagement and enhance scholarship.

As a new faculty of the School of Nursing, I keep on looking some of the opportunities that Kennesaw State University is providing to enhance teaching and scholarship. Although this program relied on both formal (complete information in KSU Faculty Affairs website page) and informal promotion (word of mouth), the specific information included in the website page encouraged me to apply in this program. The agenda, information for participants, brochures, and previous attendees’ feedback and reports gave me the impression that this is a well-structured workshop. The information helped me set my own objectives, expectations, and intended outcomes to satisfy deliverables for the workshop. In addition, even if the workshop has not started yet, the constant communication given by the coordinator inspired me to prepare for the workshop since noticeable effort was made to attract faculty members with different expertise and backgrounds.

The workshop in Germany commenced with the introduction of the program focused on sustainable development and getting to know the other participants and seminar leaders. Being comfortable in the new environment enable the participants to relax and be in the best element to participate in different activities. During the first day, it indicated in the schedule that we will hike for almost three hours, I should have physically prepared for this activity as well. Having a great environment just like the view from the top of the mountain, I learned to appreciate the world-- we should take action to preserve the beautiful surroundings we lived in, it is our responsibility.

The topics of the workshop were thought-provoking, and the content seems to be well-planned. Some of the discussions included: challenges for the global citizens of tomorrow about sustainability, European political structures, energy mix of tomorrow, governance and challenges of climate change, global learning and education for sustainable development, global population growth and future of food supply, and strengthening partnerships for sustainable development. The

interactive small group setting of the workshop gave me a platform for expressing concerns and questions about the topics. Also, it gave the participants an interactive platform to discuss different concepts about sustainability. Of the topics covered, one of the most appealing was the topic about global learning and education for sustainable development. Being a nurse educator, this provided me another insight about empowering future nurses to act for positive environmental and social change, implying a participatory and action-oriented approach. The lessons I learned from the contents of this workshop aided me in preparing different teaching strategies to be used in classroom setting and provided ideas to promote my scholarship.

The workshop experience was mostly educational, though I did enjoy the various activities provided in conjunction with the topics about sustainability and perspective on global issues. The hike, nine pin championship, and regional style barbeque promotes camaraderie and teambuilding among participants with diverse background. The excursion to Strasbourg contributed to my understanding of European infrastructure, culture, and history that I knew so little about. I tend to know more colleagues and foster deeper connection with them both personally and professionally. It is truly a wonderful experience that I will surely remember for the rest of my life.

For current and future projects, first, I challenged my students in nursing research class to find a recent article related to sustainability in nursing and analyze how it reflects common ways in which they cover different dimensions of sustainability such as environmental, economic, and social. Second, I initiated a qualitative study about the participants of the workshop and prepare a manuscript for publication about the experiences. Since this is the fourth year of this workshop about perspective on global issues, I am planning to use all the reports that were submitted and posted in the faculty affairs webpage. Third, I will be presenting the topic of global issues and sustainability to my colleagues in WellStar School of Nursing during one of our faculty development seminars. Fourth, as a President of the Philippine Nurses Association of Georgia, Inc. I will incorporate what I learned by providing education during our community outreach programs and seminars to my fellow nurses and their families. Lastly, I will continue to collaborate to the participants of this workshop so we can establish a Faculty Learning Communities (FLC) program with the intention to enhance each participant's teaching in ways that may lead to documentable changes in student learning and scholarship about global learning and education for sustainable development.