



Faculty Professional Development Program

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Reflection on European Academy of Otzenhausen

It was a great opportunity to participate at the *Faculty Professional Development Program* in May at the *European Academy of Otzenhausen, Germany*. “*Partnerships for the Future*” was indeed an excellent theme this year for a forward-looking program which, at its core, seeks to advance global *partnership* mindsets in higher education.

In terms of the professional development, the entire program was remarkable and cohesive -- in all levels, from its formal setting of lectures, workshops, excursions to its informal context of group-based dialogues among EAO and KSU colleagues, such as the discussions during the memorable hikes to the Celtic Hill Fort. The EAO seminar-based discussions unfolded Europe multifaceted political, economic, and Soci-cultural dimensions. The presentations offered a range of interdisciplinary concepts and informative practices from the future of the energy industry, food supply, water to European political analysis.

In particular, the visits and discussions on the Council of Europe and European Parliament deepened my knowledge of European political structures, and decision-making processes. The guided tours and presentations on CoE and EP offered great insights and perspectives - in a globalized context - of the political landscape of Europe and its current role and challenges in strengthening partnerships for sustainable development. It was an intriguing comparison to the United States and/or North America especially with our current complicated geopolitical climate for integrating the emerging sustainability global goals.

Application of Learned Knowledge at the KSU

The EAO Faculty Professional Development Program offered an effective professional learning for faculty to apply that knowledge in advancing students' global engagement and achievement. The program supports KSU vision and mission which underlines the vital role of global collaborative paths in the university engagements strategy.

My teaching, research and service focus on a diverse range of regional, national, and international involvements. Throughout the past years, the UN Global Goals have been a critical framework for my scholarship. As Sustainability Faculty Fellow 2017-18, I initiated and organized the multidisciplinary program of EQUINOX as one of the first organized events on our campus dedicated to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The EAO program created an excellent opportunity to expand the EQUINOX global partnership and also interdisciplinary collaboration across the KSU colleges and campuses. Established in March 2017, the annual EQUINOX Week and Symposium are platforms to advocate socio-economic-ecological impacts of sustainability. The initiative advances a diverse set of interdisciplinary scholarship and collaboration -- catalyzing partnership among students, alumni, faculty, staff, professionals, policy makers, stakeholders, community members, and advocates.

Furthermore, the EAO program offered new lens, and tools to reflect and expand pedagogy -- specifically, for developing teaching modules in my courses such as: *Global Sustainable Design Strategies; Architecture Advocacy: Sustainability in Social and Build Environment; and Leadership by Design: Community Impact*. I would employ as well what I learned in terms of energy industry in my core courses focused on the Environmental Technology -- such as ARCH3313, ARCH 3314.

As the Chair of the KSU Presidential Commission on Sustainability, I will share the findings with our commission members and encourage colleagues to consider applying for the program. We continue to advocate educators' professional and global learning to empower and strengthen interdisciplinary knowledge and inter-cultural skills for empowering our students and raising their career achievement.

Danke schön, to our wonderful hosts at the European Academy of Otzenhausen for organizing such an intercultural and interdisciplinary program, and also to Office of Academic Affairs, especially Dr. Ron Matson, for sponsoring and promoting this synergistic opportunity and cohesive experience to partner with the global community.

Regards,

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