

# International Extension Programming: UWEX Experience and Opportunities

Arlen Albrecht

Lucille Harvey

Kathy Metzenbauer

John Preissing

- Benefits
- Panel Discussion
- Skill Assessment
- UWEX Global Relations
- Practical Considerations/Resources

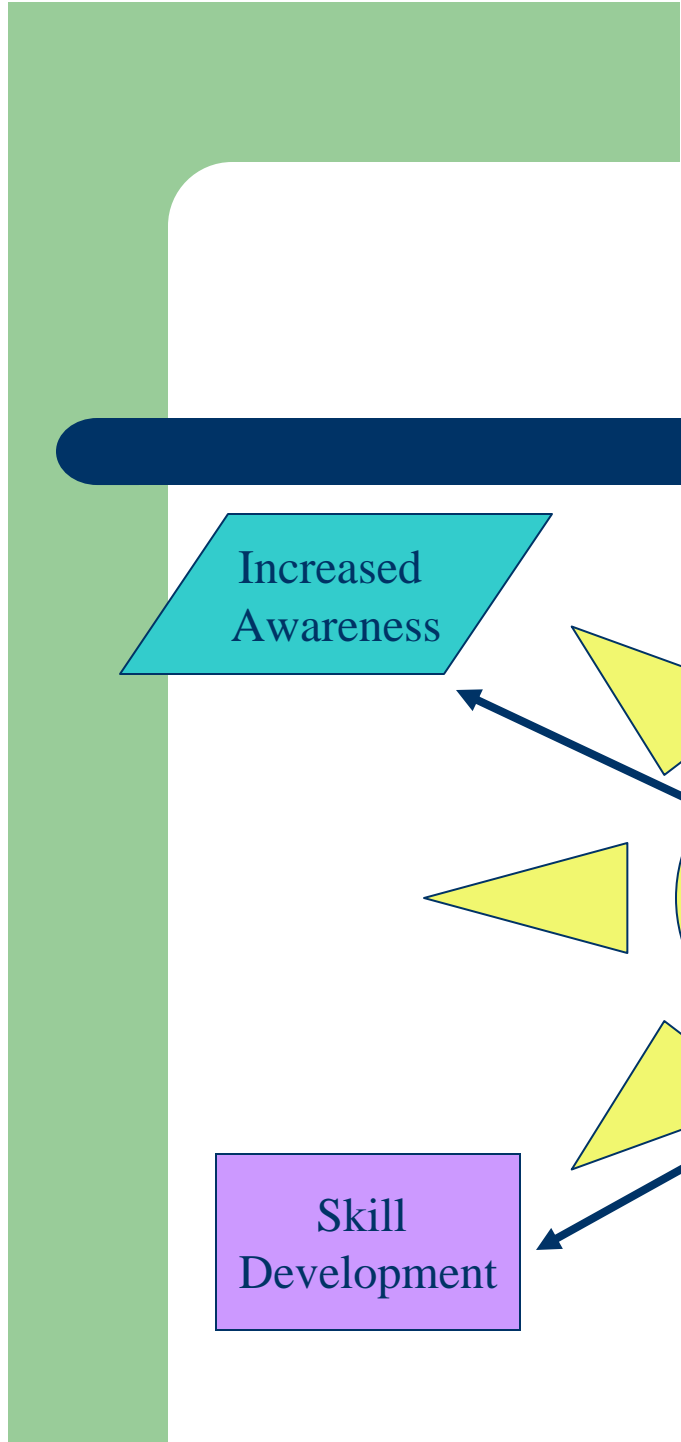
UWEX Central District All Staff Meeting

September 15, 2004

# **Benefits of International Work Experience for UWEX Staff**

*A District Director's  
Perspective*





Increased Awareness

Understanding of Policy Options

*Benefits of International Work Experience*

Skill Development

Greater National Goals



## Increased Awareness

*By increasing our understanding of the cultures of the world and interpreting this for our local clientele, the residents of Wisconsin will be able to make better-more informed decisions*  
(Ken Shapiro)

- Helps local communities to understand impacts and changes

# Greater Understanding of Policy Options

- By understanding how others have dealt with similar policy options, local communities can learn from failures and successes
  - ✓ Foot and Mouth Disease
  - ✓ Nicaraguan negotiation and compromise

# Skill Development of Staff

- Familiar content to new audiences
- Learn alternative teaching techniques of professional colleagues
- Highlight need to communicate clearly at home, too
- Less tangible -  
ENTHUSIASM



# Greater National Goals

- *Our international connections help to ... support the objectives of the US Foreign Policy, including improving the quality of life in developing countries and ensuring opportunities for peace to replace war as the common denominator of international relations (MSU/IIA/CANR International Programs)*
- Extension staff works with USAID towards broader US goals through F2F

# Downsides



- Staff time before, during, and after trips
- Some stress may occur
- Time with Committee, though most positive
- Possible health concerns
- Overall risks



# International Work Experiences

## Conclusions

- *As we move into the new millennium and our world becomes smaller and smaller with continuous enhancements of communications technology, Missouri's residents must become active partners in the emerging economy (Glen Easter, EGRET IV Program)*
- The key – Our clientele or citizens will benefit from a greater understanding of the world in our increasingly global environment.