



Reaching Across the Border:  
*Wisconsin and International  
Partnerships*

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# Objectives

- Review examples
- Describe benefits
- Discuss implications



# UW-Extension International Committee



## Organization

- faculty and staff
- 20 persons
- meets monthly
- liaison to USDA



# Mission

Serve as as a catalyst, providing information, incentives and networking opportunities promoting international activities and understanding.



# Accomplishments

Who:

40 persons/5 years

With:

- Peace Corps
- USAID
- ACDI/VOCA
- Farmer to Farmer

What:

- Training
- Teaching
- Evaluating
- Developing
- Designing



# Wisconsin-Nicaragua

- Wisconsin-Nicaraguan Partnership
- UW-Ext faculty on WNP Board
- System wide focus on Nicaragua



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# UW-Extension Work

- Mostly Agriculture and Natural Resources or Community Development staff
- 2-4 weeks at time
- Work time - not vacation or leave
- Women - 40%, Men - 60%
- Have previous international experience



# Benefits



- Invigorating
- Broadens world-view
- New knowledge of processes, policies, content, techniques





# Benefits



## New Skills

- Teaching
- Creativity
- Decision-making
- Communication
- Resourcefulness



# Benefits

- Develop new or build on scholarship, research opportunities
- Learn new language

Volume 93 Issue 1  
Safety and Security in Our Communities

Journal of

Family and Consumer Sciences

From Research to Practice



# Benefits

- Sensitivity to cultural differences
- Teach content not in current position





# Benefits



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# Implications

- Time - before, during, after
- Stress and re-entry fatigue
- Local programs may suffer
- Exposure to risks





# Implications

- Revitalizes faculty
- Revitalizes program
- Develops or expands partnerships
- University serves international objectives





# Implications

- Brings recognition to University
- Source of revenue
- Provides professional development





# Implications



- Leadership
  - Type-casting
  - Not for everyone
- personality  
resources  
support





# Implications

Administrators need  
to understand value  
to individual and  
organization

Educators need to  
articulate benefits  
and be accountable





# Implications

*"We are a world-class organization.  
Let's get worldly!"*

Ayse Somersan



# Conclusions

- Many international scholarship opportunities
- Many benefits to educators that strengthens the entire organization
- Benefits learners and partners
- Articulate for win-win-win situation



# International Scholarship

- Creative intellectual work
- Reviewed by peers - value affirmed
- Adds to intellectual history
- Valued by learners