

PCI-Ruckelshaus Center Seattle Workshop
Center for Urban Horticulture
April 25 -27

Roundtable Discussion: Emerging Issues

Question: If we had a network of University Service programs, what would it do and how would it work?

Moderator: Susan Sherry, Sacramento State Center for Collaborative Policy

Background: As state programs in dispute resolution migrated out of state government and the field broadened, many of these programs have evolved into centers and programs housed in universities. Two years ago nine university centers and programs met in Palm Springs and began to develop the idea of forming a network of university-based programs and centers focused on issues of collaborative governance. The question driving this was: How can we work together more effectively? PCI surveyed university programs and put out a publication with the results of the survey.

Primary goals for roundtable: Determine whether or not to go ahead with forming a network, test interest and commitment to participating, and consider resource needs for the network

Secondary goals for roundtable: Comments and improvements on the one page description developed by PCI

Membership

General agreement among participants that:

- both “centers” and “programs” be included
- the network membership should be limited to members from university centers and programs, rather than individuals or private practitioners
- the network would help lend credibility to these programs within the university setting

Proposed future expansion could include programs from centers outside the US, especially Canada and community colleges

Network Goals / Activities

What should the network’s focus / activities be?

- Enhancing centers, Building capacity
- Bringing state-centered programs together to address larger regional or national issues together
- Coordinating research
- Could link government agencies / elected officials with their local / state university center / program that addresses the agency’s particular issues

Resources

Question of what PCI's long term resources are, especially with Chris's transition from position of director; Chris will continue to work with the university network after she steps down as ED

Would the network be able to nest within another organization (CSG, NASULGC, etc.)?
General agreement that such a nesting organization should be university based

Dues should be based on a tiered scale: small, medium, large university centers pay different amounts

University Network One Page Description

- emphasize that centers in the network carry out SOME of the listed functions
- change to "assist university centers" rather than just universities
- use both "centers" and "programs"
- create a fourth category of "Activities"

Examples of other networks (past, present, and proposed)

- Consortium for Western Academic Centers
- Non-Profit Academy Centers Council
- Collaborative Law Network
- UNH's new Democracy Imperative
- Southern Consortium of University Public Service Organizations

Structure

- Begin as virtual organization with minimal structure
- Alternative to Executive Committee could be rotating presidency – pros and cons to that were discussed
- let structure develop over time

Conclusion

All participants voiced support that they would join and support a network with tiered membership and small, medium, and large university dues