

Internationalizing the TESOL Practicum: A Canadian-Vietnamese Partnership

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ABSTRACT

Proposed presentation description: In December 2019, Dr. Karen Densky, Associate Teaching Professor at Thompson Rivers University (TRU), arrived in HCMC, Vietnam with a group of Canadian TESOL students who would spend the next three weeks completing their teaching practicum at Saigon Tourism & Hospitality College (STHC). Dr. Densky had spent several weeks in HCMC in December 2018 on a Leave for Change project with Uniterra (www.uniterra.ca). This project involved working with the English language faculty at STHC to increase the level of communicative competence of their students. Over three weeks, relationships were forged, and a commitment to continue to work together was made. One year later, Dr. Densky returns with TRU student teachers from the TESOL Certificate program.

This was an incredible experience for all involved: the Canadian TESOL students, the Vietnamese mentor teachers, and the STHC students. A successful field school opportunity like this is an example of a high impact practice (Kuh, 2008) that takes extensive planning and cooperation between institutional partners. This presentation will outline the process and benefits of moving from the initial idea of an international mobility experience through to delivery and explain how the project meets the six criteria of a high impact practice.