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2020 U.S.-Brazil Innovation Fund Competition on Peace Engineering

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International Programs in UTEP's College of Engineering since 2007



Courtesy of Dr. Carlos Ferregut

Lessons Learned at UTEP

- Students are more willing to travel internationally when a member of the faculty is with them.
- The number of participating students in short-term programs is larger than in semester-long programs.

Where did we start?

2012: First Faculty-Led Study Abroad Program

Name: USA/Peru Study Abroad Program: Global and Regional Sustainability Engineering

Funding Agency: US Department of State

PI(s): C. Ferregut, H. Taboada, J. Espiritu, K. Cheu, C. Chang

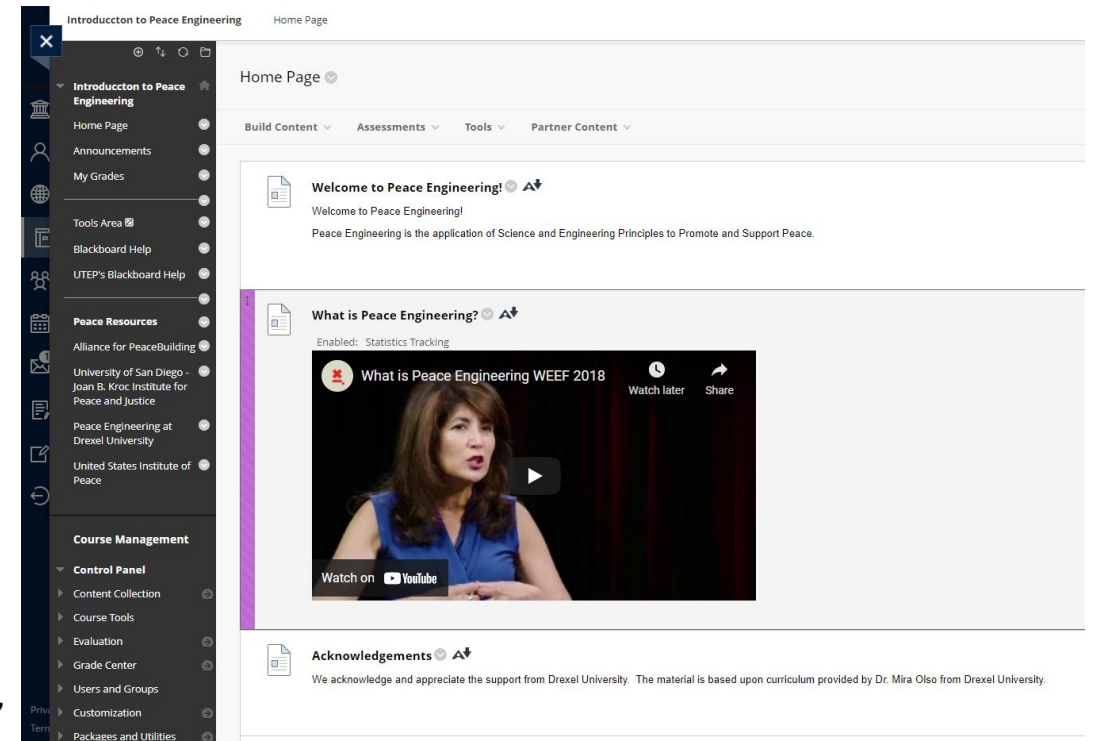
Partner: Universidad de Piura, Peru

Going on strong annually since 2012!
2020 and 2021: Virtual Study Abroad Summer Program

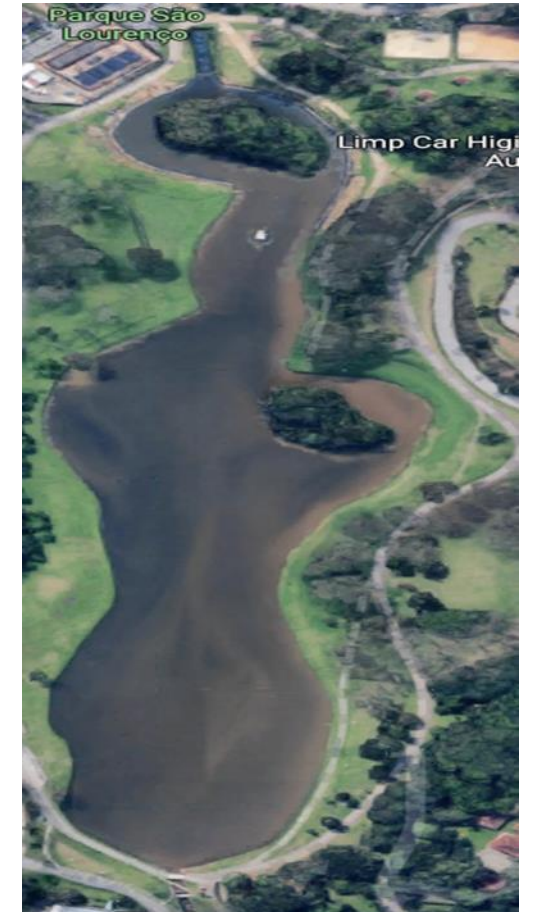


Format of our U.S.-Brazil Innovation Fund Competition program

- One week at UTEP and one week at PUCPR
 - Teams worked remotely between sessions
- Some themes covered
 - Introduction to Peace Engineering
 - Team Building activities/ Design Thinking in Peace Engineering
 - Introduction to Peacebuilding
 - Conflict analysis and cycle of conflict: case studies
 - Teamwork: Develop ideas for projects
 - Community Engaged Scholarship
 - Gender Inclusivity and Environmental Justice in Peace Engineering
 - Field Trips to shelters, community organizations, start-up incubators, nature reserves
- Collaborations with
 - Drexel University-Dr. Mira Olson
 - UTEP's Center for Community Engagement-Dr. Azuri Gonzalez
 - University of New Mexico-Dr. Ramiro Jordan
- Project-Based with Final presentations



Project #1: Restoration activities in Parque San Lourenco in Rio Belem



Project #2: Design of Cart for Carrinheiros, the Eco-citizens of Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil



Key success factors for our program

- Based on existing semester long course to count for credit
- Persistency and commitment of the professors
- Funding, starting with Partners of the Americas
- Strong support from University administrators (President, Provost, Deans and Associate Deans)
- Cooperation of stakeholders within the universities
 - Curriculum committees, Office of International Programs, Study Abroad Program, registrar, financial aid office, housing office, legal office, etc.
- One of the high impact activities on [UTEP's EDGE Program](#)
- Replicability
- Sustainability
- Continued engagement and communication
- Service-Learning opportunities are always attractive to students
- Student's success takes priority

Success depends on:

- Interested and committed faculty
- Seed external funding like 100K Strong
- Strong support from the upper administration
- Availability of Institutional fee funds for sustainability

Challenges

- Changes in the leadership of the University and College
- Limited staff to support growth
- Some administrators do not properly recognize the value of global activities.
- Need to focus on procuring resources to scale up our global activities
 - Identify more collaborative research opportunities and funding sources
- Involve industry stake holders to identify opportunities and collaborative projects

THANK YOU!



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