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Francine B. Patterson

Department of Geography, University of Denver, CO

David B. Longbrake

Department of Geography, University of Denver, CO

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INTEGRATED EDUCATION IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: CONNECTING THE UNIVERSITY TO NEEDS AROUND IT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Francine B. Patterson¹ and David B. Longbrake, Ph.D.²

¹ Doctoral Student, University of Denver,
Department of Geography, 2130 S. Race St., Denver, CO 80208

² Professor and Chair, University of Denver,
Department of Geography, 2130 S. Race St., Denver, CO 80208

ABSTRACT: Education has long been faced with the notion that what they do bears no relation to the world outside academe. The public and private sector have often confronted the new graduate who needs to get a footing in the “real world” and learn how to apply what he has studied. The best solution for higher education is to produce students who both know their subject matter and can apply it while a student.

As demands on the environment and all types of resources increase, universities need to keep pace with the knowledge, and the problem-solving and technical skills that will be needed in the future. Educational partnership can provide dynamic applied learning environments and a more vigorous curriculum which breed innovation and challenge students to find solutions while they study. Application then becomes part of study. Unlike short-term collaborative efforts in education which address a single issue, or isolated philanthropy, the well-designed partnership establishes a long-term relationship among organizations which can assimilate new technology and knowledge, tackle new issues and adapt to changing priorities.

In partnership, the university shares its technical expertise, topical knowledge, and human resources with other organizations to help identify, understand, and derive solutions to natural resource management issues. Partners could initiate and undertake projects outside the realm of their day-to-day tasks. They could also gain visibility and recognition for their support of projects designed to enhance education and the management of natural resources.