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## International Perspectives in CEnR

Maghboeba Mosavel  
*Virginia Commonwealth University*

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**Location**

VCU ASPIRE, 835 W. Grace St., Richmond VA

**Disciplines**

Higher Education

**Presenter Information**

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# International Community-Engaged Research

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Community-Engaged Research Institute

May 13, 2015

# Research in South Africa

- \* Cervical Cancer Prevention, Cape Town (R25, R03)
- \* Community Engaged Research, Kenneth Gardens, Durban (Global Education Office, International Partnership Award)

# Approach

- \* Local stakeholders assisted in shaping the research questions
- \* Established a Community Advisory Board
- \* Partnership with CANSA
- \* Partnership with the Department of Education
- \* Hired local management staff
- \* Trained community members as community researchers
- \* Conducted formative research
- \* Conducted focus groups

# Research Question

- \* Explore the the mother-daughter relationship and the feasibility of using the adolescent daughter to provide her mother with cancer screening information

# Research

- \* Trained 7 community researchers
- \* 2 academic researchers from South Africa
- \* 2 academic researchers from the US
- \* Project Coordinator (CG)
- \* Project Supervisor (DVS)
- \* Mother-daughter semi-structured interviews (N=314)
- \* Transcription and Qualitative data analysis in South Africa



# Building Global Bridges

## Community-engaged research

- \* Partnership with University of KwaZulu Natal, Durban
- \* Addressed local need
- \* Local partners part of the planning/grant process
- \* VCU-UKZN student teams
- \* VCU-UKZN academic partnership



# Research Questions

- \* How do residents of Kenneth Gardens perceive the health of their community?
- \* What are the benefits and barriers to utilizing services through a local health clinic?



# Core Research Components Completed

- \* Youth Photo voice (N=14)
- \* Semi-structured interviews of elders and clinic users (N=28)
- \* 6 VCU students + photographer and 5 UKZN students









# Community-engaged Outcomes

- \* Data dissemination in Kenneth Gardens and to key stakeholders
- \* Building capacity (learners and students)
- \* Co-learning
- \* Student-led publication
- \* VCU-UKZN peer-reviewed publication
- \* Published photo book of research
- \* Conference presentations
- \* Video documentary – won awards
- \* Secured resources for the Kenneth Gardens Clinic

# How does Building Global Bridges create stronger student researchers?

- \* Active learning
  - \* Real-world experience
  - \* Apply and cultivate skills learned in the classroom
  - \* Learn skills on the ground that cannot be taught in class
  - \* Gain experience in new research methodologies (Photo Voice)
- \* Introduces the field of research as a career option
  - \* Facilitates transition from student to researcher
- \* Orientation into the international research and public health community
  - \* Opportunities to meet experts in the field
  - \* Establish new contacts for potential future collaborations

# How does Building Global Bridges develop culturally competent researchers?

- \* Knowledge-building across many contexts
  - \* cross-cultural learning
  - \* interdisciplinary learning
  - \* inter-institutional learning
- \* Builds cross-cultural relationships and networks
- \* Enhanced insights to differences in health care service delivery

# How does Building Global Bridges build commitment to scholarship?

- \* Exposure to different types of research and methodologies
  - \* Community-engaged research as a framework
  - \* Photo Voice
- \* Seeing research translated to tangible results can be a rewarding experience
  - \* Collaboration with community partners
- \* Develops student leaders in the research context
  - \* Mentoring opportunity builds capacity
  - \* Solidifies research interests
  - \* Invaluable cross-cultural, international collaborations and co-learning

# What are the tangible outcomes from Building Global Bridges?

- \* Higher research outputs
- \* More marketable students
- \* Increased student independence and leadership skills
- \* Potential of future scholarship opportunities
- \* Development of more post-graduate students
- \* Strengthening of ties between international institutions
- \* Establish relationships with communities through research and data dissemination









# Key Elements of International Community-engaged research

- \* Partnerships
- \* Research Question of Interest to the Community
- \* Local Policy and Context
- \* Building Capacity
- \* Asset based
- \* Co-learning
- \* Mutual benefit
- \* Sustainable



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