

The Haiti Empowerment Project (HEP)

Purpose

The Haiti Empowerment Project (HEP) is unique in making collaboration and dialogue with Haitian colleagues central to its international partnerships. The mission of HEP is “To work in collaboration with Haitian universities, communities, and governmental/non-governmental entities to provide an environment of empowerment through global problem solving.” Since 2005, the Haiti Empowerment Project has developed long-term relationships with local communities, including school teachers, principals, and community leaders, as well as university and government officials.

Impact

HEP has inspired grassroots dialogue and change. Haitian university student organizations have been founded with mentorship and encouragement of OSU peers. Solar panels have been co-installed and completely maintained by Haitians. Teacher development initiatives have been organized and implemented by Haitians for Haitians using the processes demonstrated by OSU faculty.

To date, the collaboration between Ohio State and Haitian University partners has yielded approximately 20 university-level seminars delivered by both faculty and students of Ohio State University for four separate Haitian universities.

In participating in the Freirean-based planning, reflection, and community action (praxis) process, HEP students develop a global sense of dialogue, collaboration, community, and empowerment.

Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved

Colleges of:

Education and Human Ecology
Engineering
Arts and Sciences
Business (Fisher)

Community Partners Involved

Center for Research in Education
Formation and Instruction (CREFI)
Torch Of Hope
Servants In Fellowship (SIF)

Contact

Dr. Terri Bucci
Director of The Haiti
Empowerment Project
College of Education and
Human Ecology
bucci.5@osu.edu
haiti.osu.edu



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