

UNESCO CHAIR in RURAL COMMUNITY, LEADERSHIP, and YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



PENNSTATE



UNESCO Chair in Rural Community,
Leadership, and Youth Development,
The Pennsylvania State University

We want to work with you



Strong communities equal stable, civil, and just societies. We're rethinking the way we look at community and youth engagement to achieve this vision. **How can you make a difference in your community?** Join us and find out.

The **UNESCO Chair at Penn State** offers high-quality, research-based information, programming, and best practices to the world. We contribute to a better future, where local people are engaged and actively involved in shaping the future of their communities. We work with those who feel the same and are willing to step up to the challenge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Brennan'.

Dr. Mark Brennan

Engage the power of a Global Network

The Chair at Penn State is a founding member of the

Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Children, Youth, and Community

which includes:

6 additional UNESCO Chairs

50 universities and institutions

Over 400 researchers and educators

Across 6 continents

We can work together. We listen to you, then utilize our network to connect you to the most appropriate educators, researchers, programming, and resources to address your needs.

Education should be at the core of everything we do. Education unlocks the hidden potential within individuals and society.

Community development is about empowering local people to direct their own development. We invest in people, not just projects, because engaged communities are more resilient and sustainable.

We've got your interests covered

Our work is focused on the following programmatic themes

Governance, Democracy, & Civil Societies

- Community capacity building
- Local decision making
- Conflict resolution
- Civic engagement across the lifespan
- Language & indigenous knowledge

Health & Nutrition

- Health and wellness
- HIV/AIDS and sexuality
- Decisions for healthy living
- Agricultural development & nutrition
- Food security

Economic & Social Innovation

- Rural development
- Leadership development
- Community development
- Youth development
- Gender equity
- Entrepreneurial & small business development
- Social services & service providing

Natural Resource Management & Sustainability

- Locally based resource management
- Tourism & resource-based economies
- Land use strategies
- Resource access - water & energy

Community empowerment is key to long-term success

This is our work in action



Youth Leadership Development

In **2013**, we worked with our partners at the National University of Ireland-Galway, Foróige, and youth in **Kenya** and **Zambia** to develop leadership and community-building capacities. This proven model and programming is transforming communities and providing opportunities for youth that were unimaginable just a short time ago.

Youth, Community, & Media-making

In **2014**, we secured a grant with Adobe Youth Voices and TakingITGlobal to engage youth, ages 13-18, from around central **Pennsylvania**. The program explores concepts of community to give youth a voice through creative expression using photography and video production. Youth identify place-relevant issues, advocate their solutions to improve their communities, and showcase their projects in a public exhibition. Program participants are then eligible for additional scholarships and awards from Adobe.

How will you help shape the future?

Support Or Start A Project

You have great ideas for the future and we're here to put your plan into action. We also have existing initiatives that you can support. Our work is made possible and strengthened through your efforts and contributions.

Support The Next Generation of Development Professionals

Developing community requires investment in the next generation of change agents. Your support provides meaningful opportunities for students and young professionals through graduate assistantships, internships, field studies, and high-impact research for post-docs and visiting scholars.

Co-Sponsor An Event With Us

Our capacity to shape meaningful change stems from our ability to develop lasting relationships. Our events and conferences bring together influential leaders and key stakeholders that not only make our work possible, but sustainable. Highlight and increase your organization's network by co-sponsoring an event.

You are invited to join our team!

***Want to create lasting change for
youth and rural communities?***

***Have a passion for teaching,
research, or outreach?***

*Students, researchers, post-docs, faculty,
educators, development practitioners,
donors, policy makers...*

We want to hear from you!



Connect with us



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