

## UNAI MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT 2016/2017

### North Carolina State University USA

During the 2016/2017 reporting period, North Carolina State University (NC State) undertook a number of activities that underscore its commitment to UNAI and its principles. The following examples stand out as particularly noteworthy:

**Global Symposium:** NC State Global facilitated a Global Symposium in Prague for 12 faculty members from 9 different colleges. The group visited three universities in Prague and were connected to counterparts at each of these universities to collaborate on research and academic programs. Upon their return to campus, participants are actively engaged in expanding programming at the NC State European Center in Prague, as its mission expands to include more research and partnership activities.



**Coffee and Connect:** This event was held with a focus on the region of Sub-Saharan Africa to provide a forum for faculty to discuss research and collaboration across disciplines in this region. Attendees from nearly all of the academic colleges attended to engage with colleagues for research and scholarly collaboration.

**Global Issues Seminar Series:** NC State Global offered this series for the 8th year and consisted of two seminars featuring panels of NC State experts speaking about global health issues relevant to North Carolina.

**International Education Month:** NC State Global extended International Education Week to the month of November. The month featured events for students, faculty, staff, and the community, designed to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. Signature events included the second annual Think & Do in Two: Global Storytelling Competition, along with the International Coffee & Tea, Pangea Race, Passport Fair, and study abroad workshops.

**Packapalooza:** NC State Global sponsored an “International Zone” during the university's welcome week. International student organizations were involved, showcasing their cultures with interactive and engaging activities. A Parade of Flags was held for the fourth year in a row, where more than 80 international students carried flags down the main campus street to represent the cultural diversity at NC State. NC State Global's significant presence at this event exposed over 75,000 people to international students, faculty, cultures, and community that make the university a global campus.

**Academic research projects at NC State which are assisting in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals:**

Sid Thakur is working to address the challenge of infectious diseases through his work in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Thakur, an associate professor in the Department of Population Health and Pathobiology and Associate Director at the Comparative Medicine Institute, focuses on antimicrobial drug resistance that impacts humans and animals. His educational efforts received support in 2011 through a \$5,000 seed grant from the Office of Global Engagement, which funded a food-borne pathogen tracking project in India, his home country. Thakur then turned the seed grant into a \$100,000 grant from the World Health Organization-Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance. This grant supported a two-year study in India of how to combat drug resistance of bacterial pathogens like Salmonella and Escherichia coli.

Yang Zhang, a professor in the College of Sciences, is working on a collaborative research project funded by the University Global Partnership Network. The project is called BIOBURN and aims to study the impact of emissions on urban environment. The BIOBURN researchers sought to investigate unaccounted sources of emissions, and how those emissions impact urban environments in Sao Paulo, Brazil. BIOBURN found that stoves in pizza restaurants and charcoal in steakhouses cause harm to urban environments. They further showed that biomass burning in agriculture lands and forests can increase the ambient concentrations of fine particulate matter, a criteria pollutant that can cause harmful effects on the cardiovascular system including heart attacks and strokes, and premature death. To fund this project, Zhang received funding from the UGPN Research Collaboration Fund, a program facilitated by the Office of Global Engagement.

Veronica Augustyn, the Chair of SciBridge and Assistant Professor of Materials Science & Engineering, recognized a need to educate and collaborate with future members of the domestic science and engineering workforce in Africa. The Scibridge Project starts in the U.S., where student volunteers from NC State and other partner universities fund-raise for the program and design experiment kits around key

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concepts related to sustainable energy. To date, the SciBridge Project has sent over 20 experiment kits to nine universities in Africa in three different countries: Uganda, Ethiopia, and Tanzania. Once African students complete the experiment, a researcher from the U.S. is invited to give a web-based seminar, and the students have an additional opportunity for questions and discussion. Augustyn and the SciBridge Project received an East Africa Strategic Initiative (EASI) Seed Grant from the Office of Global Engagement.

**Links:**

<https://www.ncsu.edu/>

<https://twitter.com/NCStateGlobal>

<https://www.facebook.com/ncstateglobal/>



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