Seven VCU Faculty to Create Teaching and Research Linkages in Durban, South Africa

RICHHMOND, Va. (Apr. 17, 2014)—The Global Education Office, in collaboration with the Division of Community Engagement, is pleased to announce participants in the second annual Faculty Development Seminar. The 2014 seminar will be hosted by VCU strategic partner, University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in Durban, South Africa from August 1-15.

Participants in the 2014 Faculty Development Seminar include:
Susan Bodnar-Deren, Ph.D., College of Humanities & Sciences, Department of Sociology
Rowena Briones, Ph.D., College of Humanities & Sciences, Richard T. Robertson School of Media & Culture
Rosalie Corona, Ph.D., College of Humanities & Sciences, Department of Psychology
Kelli Williams Gary, Ph.D., School of Allied Health Professions, Department of Occupational Therapy
Carrie LeCrom, Ph.D., School of Education, Center for Sport Leadership
Joann Richardson, Ph.D., College of Humanities & Sciences, Department of Health & Human Performance
Colleen Thoma, Ph.D., School of Education, Department of Special Education & Disability Policy

In support of the internationalization goals that flow from VCU’s strategic plan, Quest for Distinction, the Faculty Development Seminar connects a cohort of VCU faculty to counterparts at strategic partner universities for the purpose of exploring collaborative research and teaching linkages.

The theme of this year’s seminar is community-engaged research and this year’s participants, who share overlapping interests in public health, seek to connect with faculty at UKZN whose areas of expertise echo their own. Areas of interest include the use of social media and technology in health education, HIV/Aids prevention programs for adolescents and adults, disability policy and the development of a new global health course that will incorporate a study abroad component at UKZN.

For example, Gary has explicit plans for her time at UKZN. “I applied for the seminar so I could connect with faculty in the Department of Occupational Therapy at UKZN,” she said. “I am interested in research collaboration related to rehabilitation of traumatic and chronic conditions in adolescents and adults and look forward to connecting with my colleagues in South Africa who have similar interests.”

The seminar is led by McKenna Brown, Ph.D., Global Education Office executive director, Cathy Howard, Ph.D., vice provost for community engagement and Maghboeba Mosavel, Ph.D., associate professor of social and behavioral health and VCU chief liaison to UKZN.
The Faculty Development Seminar is a component of the Global Education Office’s Quest Global Impact Award initiative. Participants complete a spring semester pre-departure program of readings, lectures, discussions, and writings.

Last year’s inaugural Faculty Development Seminar was held in Spain and Morocco, with stops in Córdoba, Tarifa, and Madrid, Spain, as well as Tangier, Tétouan, and Marrakesh, Morocco.

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Photo caption: L to R: Colleen Thoma, Rowena Briones, Carrie LeCrom, Kelli Gary, Rosalie Corona, Joann Richardson and Susan Bodnar-Deren.