

Teaching Scholar Fellowship
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For summer 2008, I was awarded a Teaching Scholar Fellowship from President Davenport. This project provided \$6,300 for “A Cross-Cultural Instructional Redesign Project with North-Eastern International University, Magadan, Russian Federation: Incorporating Guided Inquiry Learning and On-Line Teaching Strategies in EEC 227 Early Learning and Development.” The fellowship provided research and writing time to re-design EEC 227 to incorporate (a) cross-cultural instructional strategies; (b) on-line teaching strategies; and (c) process-oriented guided inquiry learning (POGIL).

EEC 227 introduced developmental theorists who have had an impact on American early childhood education and explores child growth and development from prenatal through age eight years. Among these developmental theorists are persons in the Russian Federation and other former Soviet Republics (e.g., Lev Vygotsky), about whom American educators know very little.

Additional faculty research on-site in the Russian Federation, as well as research and writing time, incorporated knowledge and experience about a wider variety of theorists. Personal connections with Russian faculty members enhanced the cultural appropriateness of the interpretation of Russian theorists.

The work products that resulted from this project included:

1. Revised course syllabus
2. Revised materials with notes about cross-cultural instructional strategies, on-line teaching strategies, and process-oriented guided inquiry learning (POGIL); Russian theorists
3. Application to the MSU IRB related to Global Guidelines Assessment
4. Global Guidelines Assessment and related materials translated into Russian language
5. Global Guidelines Assessment presentation at conferences in Russian Federation
6. Philosophies of Teaching presentation at conferences in Russian Federation
7. Institutional Review Board presentation at conferences in Russian Federation
8. Impact assessment report based on data from three Russian-speaking teachers or faculty members and three English-speaking teachers or faculty members
9. Final project report