

Uganda Group Program

Iacocca International Internship Proposal 2018

Program Leader Name: Mark Noble

Program Title: Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods in Uganda

Country: Uganda

Dates: June 15 – Aug 6 (tentative)

Duration: 7.5 weeks

Total budget request: \$29,418

Number of students who will participate as Iacocca Interns: 5

Additional students (if so, funding source, number of anticipated students, purpose): There could be an additional 1-2 Lehigh students on the trip working on separate independent research projects through GELH or other sources of funding.

Will additional students beyond IIP Program be considered? If so, approximately how many students and what other funding sources? See above.

Host organization name: Pathways Development Initiative

Host organization website: pdiuganda.org

Host organization contact information (name, title, email, phone):

Uganda Group Program – Iacocca International Internship Proposal

Executive Summary:

Pathways Development Initiative (PDI) is a non-governmental organization founded by local community leader David Zaale that operates in Bubiita, Bududa Uganda. PDI aims to mobilize and empower individuals and communities to improve their livelihoods through emphasis on education, women's empowerment, illness prevention, and financial planning as a means to fighting poverty. Three main aspects of this organization include (1) a pre-primary and primary school, (2) village savings and loans association (VSLA) programs and (3) an after school sports & health education program. Lehigh students would serve as interns across these capacities. The internship opportunities requested through this proposal would enable a group of Lehigh students to work with PDI and live in the Bududa community, not only gaining valuable work and professional experience in areas related to education, research and outreach, public health, and business and microfinance, but also allowing these students to experience life in a rural, impoverished community in Uganda and gain perspectives on global inequality and cultural relativism.

Goals and Objectives:

- Provide a professional experience for the students that encourages them to develop important skills, such as communication skills, public speaking, interviewing, grant writing, data collection and management, collaboration, writing reports, etc.
- Increase students' understanding and awareness of poverty and challenges to sustainable development in developing nations
- Expose students to new ideas, norms, cultural practices, and beliefs
- Challenge students to take on leadership roles, build partnerships, work with others from a different background, and enhance their self-awareness
- Encourage students to learn to work with communities and community members, rather than doing things "for" or "to" communities

Internship Description and Schedule:

The Lehigh students requested to participate in the internship will be working for PDI in 3 major capacities which involve dimensions of research, teaching, and service learning (based on the interns' interests and specific organization needs, some interns will work solely in one of these three positions; other interns may be working across multiple dimensions):

- (1) Several Lehigh students will work at PDI Education Center, a pre-primary and primary school, as well as facilitate health education programs at other local primary and secondary schools in Bududa. The Lehigh interns would be responsible for some teaching at the school and developing lesson plans in basic math and reading. The interns will also help provide oversight, administration, and organization at the school. They may also be involved in writing grants for funding to support the school or other arms of PDI. Additionally, developing and sustaining public health lessons and resources is a key focus, and many students will be involved in creating or delivering public health education materials, both at PDI Education Center and at other local schools.
- (2) The VSLA programs managed by PDI host 100 chapters with over 3,000 members from across the Bududa District. Lehigh interns will collect and organize savings and investments data from each of the 100 chapters to produce the annual report. Additionally, some interns may be involved in documenting the success or challenges to savings qualitatively through interviews and focus groups. Interns are often asked to provide help in creating budgets and business and investment plans for VSLA chapters or local businesses. The interns will also attend VSLA chapter meetings and help to teach community leaders on the importance of savings and investments.
- (3) The after-school sports program teaches youth valuable team building and leadership skills, while also serving to keep kids "off the streets" and out of dangerous social behaviors (i.e. drinking,

Uganda Group Program – Iacocca International Internship Proposal

gambling) during after school hours. The sports program is not just about sports, but lessons on positive social behaviors and public health are integrated into the curriculum and activities. Lehigh interns will help to create lesson plans on public health and disease prevention, while sports training is provided from local football (soccer) and netball professionals. Interns will also help to recruit youth participants and build partnerships with local schools to expand the program.

The Lehigh interns can come from a variety of backgrounds or majors, as much of the specific training for the different positions occurs on-the-ground. However, having at least one student with a background in business, accounting, or finance can be useful for the VSLA program specifically.

In addition to the work activities outlined above, the Uganda Sustainable Livelihoods program hopes to include a couple of cultural activities and excursions. The first includes staying for 2-3 nights in Kampala upon arrival in Uganda, and going on a cultural tour of Kampala to key historic sites, including the Gaddafi National Mosque, the Kasubi Tombs, and the Uganda Martyrs Shrine. Students will also go on a 3-day safari to Murchison Falls at the beginning of the trip that departs from Kampala (safari to be paid for out-of-pocket by the students, ~\$320). Additionally, about halfway through the trip, we plan to go on a second excursion to Sipi Falls. This is often a much needed holiday for the students, where they can get a hot shower and American food for the first time since arriving in Bududa. Additionally, students will participate in a coffee tour, hiking, and cultural tours, learning about a different tribe than those in Bududa.

A unique aspect of this internship also involves the Zaale homestay. The Lehigh interns and program leader will stay together in the Zaale home. Living with the Zaale family allows the Lehigh interns to have a deep cultural immersion and build lasting relationships. The tough conditions and lack of basic infrastructure of living in a poor, rural area challenges students on a personal level, and forces them to grow in new ways.

We are recommending this program for a fourth year to continue to build partnership between PDI and Lehigh University,¹ and because we have seen what a powerful impact the students can have on the Bududa community, as well as the impact that the community and Zaales have on the students. This past summer, the Lehigh Iacocca Interns continued to make exceptional contributions, including making formal recommendations on the staffing and structure of both PDI School and the VSLA program that improved the quality of both programs. Several students developed health programming and provided health education at several local schools. Local community leaders and the youth themselves commented on how these lessons helped local youth understand key aspects of family planning, reasons to delay intercourse, and how to prevent HIV. These are just a few examples demonstrating that the support the Iacocca interns provide at PDI is instrumental to this NGO's success and has a lasting impact on the community. Similarly, we are in contact with all students who go on my Uganda program, and we can say with certainty that this experience transforms how they think about the world and themselves.

Pathways Development Initiative (PDI) is a non-governmental organization that operates in Bubiita, Bududa and aims to mobilize and empower individuals and communities to improve their livelihoods through emphasis on education and financial planning as a means to fighting poverty. Lehigh has been working with PDI since 2013. In addition to three past Iacocca International Internships (2015, 2016, 2017), Lehigh students have also partnered with PDI and stayed with the Zaales on other occasions (2013 & 2014) facilitated through other programs. As PDI is a very small NGO, working in one of the poorest areas of the world with a miniscule operating budget, the support that the Lehigh interns offer is instrumental and vital. With this program, PDI has been able to grow and expand the VSLA program, PDI Education Center, and create the after school sports program. The work that the students do in Uganda has a lasting impact, and this NGO would not have the capacity and programming it does without the support of the Iacocca program.

¹ While we are applying for funding for a fourth consecutive year, we do not plan to apply/run the program in 2019.

Uganda Group Program – Iacocca International Internship Proposal

Professor Mark Noble will be overseeing the students for the duration of the trip. Mark Noble will travel with the students to and from Bududa, Uganda at the beginning and end of the trip, and will supervise and mentor the students on the ground for the entire duration of the internship. Mark Noble has led or co-led multiple student trips to Bududa, Uganda and has been working with PDI and the Zaale family since 2012. Professor Kelly Austin will also be helping to facilitate the program including preparing Lehigh interns before departure, as well as on the ground in Uganda as needed. However, Kelly Austin will only be in Bududa for the last 4 weeks of the trip, and funding for her travel and other expenses will be provided through another source.

Schedule: (tentative)

June 15 – depart JFK

June 16 – arrive in Entebbe/Kampala, Uganda, Red Chili Hotel

June 17 – Tour of Kampala

June 18-20 – go on safari at Murchison Falls (to be paid for by the students ~\$320)

June 21 – travel to Bududa in Eastern Uganda

June 22 to Aug 4 – intern in the capacities identified above

July 19-21 – cultural excursion at Sipi Falls

Aug 5 – travel to Red Chili Hotel Kampala

Aug 6 – depart Kampala for return to JFK

Outcomes from previous IIP Group Awards

All of the students we have worked with in Uganda report informally that this experience changes their lives or how they see themselves as a person. Many students comment that they are more humble, open-minded, and understanding of diversity and issues of poverty. Almost all students comment on growth in their leadership and collaboration skills. Others talk about how working for PDI pushed their comfort zone by making them give presentations to groups of adults or children, or develop new skills collecting and analyzing data. For example, we train students in how to conduct interviews, focus groups, and analyze quantitative and qualitative data for the VSLA work. These are valuable skills that many include on their resumes and grad school applications.

Most students continue the work they started in some capacity once they return to campus. For example, Professor Austin is currently working with a student who completed the internship this year to develop a research project on family planning that she hopes to gain GELH funding for next year. A student from the prior year (2016) served as a co-author on a research article examining land use changes and malaria rates that was published earlier this year.

Almost all of the students that have participated in the Uganda program still keep in contact with the Zaale family or key community members they worked with. The relationships they form while working for PDI continue to influence them and keep them globally aware and engaged, even when they return to campus or move on in their academic or professional careers. Several students that have participated in the Uganda Iacocca Internship Program in prior years have since graduated and gone onto graduate school in areas of global health and education where their work and research experience in Uganda was highly valued.

One student from 2017 remarked, “My internship experience taught me more than years in a classroom ever will. Being someone that wants to work with NGOs in the future, it was really helpful to be involved with a grassroots NGO. I got to see the successes and failures firsthand and be part of PDI's growth from the ground up. Working in a different culture definitely taught me patience, but more importantly showed me the importance of learning from that culture. I have seen how important it is to work alongside the people you are hoping to help when involved in any sort of humanitarian aid.”

Uganda Group Program – Iacocca International Internship Proposal

Category	Description & Notes	Cost Per Student	# of Students	Cost for all students	Cost for one faculty member	Total budget request for all students & one faculty member
Travel Expenses						
Airfare	JFK - EBB	\$1,800	5	\$ 9,000	\$1,800	\$ 10,800
In-country ground transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kampala - Bududa • Bududa - Sipi Falls • Sipi Falls - Bududa • Bududa - Kampala • Multiple trips to town for supplies & materials • Gas for travel within Bududa 	\$450	5	\$ 2,250	\$450	\$ 2,700
Program Fees						
ISOS/Insurance		\$100	5	\$ 500	\$100	\$ 600
Cultural Experiences	Kampala Tour Sipi Falls Excursion	\$250	5	\$ 1,250	\$250	\$ 1,500
Hotel	Kampala arrival & departure nights (4)	\$220	5	\$ 1,100	\$280	\$ 1,380
OneCard Transaction Fees				\$ 250		\$ 250
Other	Internet data, phone air time, printing/material costs, translation fees	\$150	5	\$ 750	\$150	\$ 900
Meals and Lodging						
Housing & Meals	Zaale Homestay: Includes lodging, laundry & meals	\$38 per day (~46 days)	5	\$ 8,740	\$1,748	\$ 10,488
Incidentals/Tips/Contingency	Additional bottled water, tips, etc.			\$ 800		\$ 800
TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST:						\$ 29,418