

D R A F T

PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING A FORMAL FRAMEWORK
FOR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN BELIZEAN EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

History/Background

In the mid-1980's, efforts within Belize to strengthen and expand capabilities in higher education led to a number of direct linkages between Belizean institutions and U.S. colleges and universities. These relationships, independently developed and variously fund, were established to address specific educational needs and goals, including faculty and staff development, institutional and program expansion, and curriculum development and improvement. By the late 1980's, it was apparent that coordination of such efforts was necessary to minimize duplication of efforts, to maximize the impact of available resources, and to address the needs of Belizean higher education in a systematic and effective fashion. Indeed, both U.S. and Belizean institutions found ad hoc cooperation and coordination essential in order to meet immediate project goals.

In conversations between Belizean officials and representatives of the various U.S. institutions involved in Belize, Belizean officials repeatedly mentioned the possibility of formalizing the cooperation that to some extent was already taking place. In the spring of 1988, Mr. Ernest Raymond, Principal of Belize Teachers' College, suggested that a consortium be formed to coordinate activities of Belizean and U.S. institutions involved in the development of higher education in Belize. As a result of Mr. Raymond's suggestion, representatives from

two Belizean institutions and four U.S. institutions met at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky, to discuss the formation of such a consortium. A representative of a fifth U.S. institution, unable to attend the meeting, expressed strong interest in the proposed organization. A list of these institutions, along with the representatives of each that attended the meeting, is attached as Appendix A.

Out of discussions at the July 1988 meeting, a proposed design for a coordinating organization was developed. This proposal follows.

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