

EXPLORATORY MEETING ON ORGANIZING COOPERATIVE
EFFORTS FOR SUPPORT OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
IN BELIZE

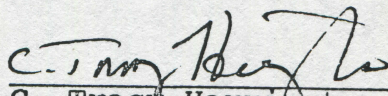
Murray State University
July 14-15, 1988

Summary of Discussions

1. Participants convened at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 14. Those attending included: Mrs. Enid McCoy, University College of Belize; Mr. Ernest Raymond, Belize Teachers' College; Dr. George Walker, UCB; Dr. Colville Young, UCB; Dr. Matthew Klein, Ferris State; Dr. Tracy Harrington, Ms. Celia Wall, and Dr. Bill Price, Murray State; Dr. Pritchard Smith, University of North Florida; Dr. Reta Hicks, Mrs. Mary Ann McCelvey, and Dr. Roger Pankratz, Western Kentucky University.
2. Dr. Colville Young presented a background paper on the development of higher education in Belize that served as a springboard for discussion. (A copy of Dr. Young's paper is attached.)
3. Mr. Raymond enumerated a range of educational needs in Belize that could serve as focal points for cooperative activities.
4. Representatives of the four U.S. institutions described the scope of their involvement in Belize and summarized the structure and organization of their international programs.
5. Throughout the meeting, there was much informal discussion of the need for a cooperative framework and the possible emphases that such a framework should have. There was general agreement on the benefits to be derived from cooperative efforts and on the need for such efforts to be based upon articulated priorities of the Belizean educational community. U.S. representatives felt strongly that a consortial organization should be responsive to, rather than directive of, educational initiatives in Belize.
6. The Thursday evening discussions served as preparatory for the Friday morning sessions, which focused on specific areas appropriate for cooperative activity and the framework for a proposed consortium.
7. In Friday's discussions, general consensus was reached on the aims that a consortium for educational development in Belize should have. There was some difference of opinion on whether the consortium's focus should be exclusively teacher education or whether it should be more broadly conceived. The conclusion was that while teacher education must be a central focus of consortium activities, the actual specification of aims should be more inclusive, in order to respond to as broad a range of emerging needs as possible.
8. Several persons present emphasized the importance of seeking outside funding support, perhaps through the AID mission in Belize, to finance organization of the consortium.

9. The group agreed on a sequence of activities that should take place in seeking to establish a consortium:
 - a. First, an initial draft would be prepared and circulated for review; comments from this review will be incorporated in a revised draft. This process will continue until a draft approved by all participants is achieved.
 - b. Once an approved draft is developed, the Belizean participants will circulate this draft to the Ministry of Education in Belize for review. Further revisions would be undertaken as necessary to secure Ministry of Education authorization and agreement.
 - c. As Ministry of Education authorization is being sought, interest of St. John's College, the Bliss School of Nursing, the Belize Technical College, and the Belize College of Agriculture will be assessed.
 - d. Once Ministry authorization is received and interest of other institutions is determined, the U.S. Agency for International Development will be approached regarding possible support for the consortium.
10. Steps a through c, above, are to be completed before mid-October. A second meeting of the group planning the consortium will be held by mid-October if possible, either at the University of North Florida or in Belize.
11. The group selected Tracy Harrington, Colville Young, and Ernest Raymond as interim co-chairs to develop the draft and seek approval of it.
12. The meeting ended at 1 p.m. on Friday, July 15, with a luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,


C. Tracy Harrington
July 26, 1988

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