Using the Holistic Process to Assist Students in Undertaking Rural and Urban Renewal in Their Own Community

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Introduction: Students in agricultural majors or career paths may be committed to contributing positively to their hometowns and trying to decide where to practice their profession and raise their family, but discipline-based learning is not adequate for this process. These decisions require discipline-based knowledge integrated with learning using the holistic process.

Methods and Materials
- Used the Holistic Process (Savory and Butterfield 1999) to create survey/discussion.
- IRB exemption approved March 6, 2014 (JS030614-EX).
- Administered survey via e-mail, face-to-face conversations, telephone conversations (n=50);
- 4 communities, bimodal age distribution.

Cave Junction, Oregon

Hypotheses Tested:
1) A negative stereotype surrounds the Illinois Valley.
2) The community believes that the Valley is in need of positive change.

- Used survey information to conduct peer-reviewed literature search on: stereotypes; rural communities, drug use and abuse, and community aesthetics.

Recommendations:
- Bring various groups closer together
- Improving aesthetics of the community
- Create a positive community event engaging people of all ages
- Organize school competition for community improvement/involve
- Develop an event (community blackberry picking) coinciding with the Blackberry Festival
- End negative stereotypes applied within the Valley to other communities.

Fig. 1. Looking out over the valley from above the Caves. Photo by Jamie Sowell August 2012

Acknowledgments:

Dillon, Montana
Shane asked both families, “What do you as a group most value?”

When a good job offer out of state tempted him, Shane remembered what he learned about his extended family and his own holistic goals and chose to work to own the farm of his family.

Kingston, Jamaica

“One day, I hope to have the ability to contribute positively to my hometown and perhaps affect some form of change it so desperately needs.”

---G. Peynado

Nagoya, Japan

“First look at traditional things. There are many good foods and beautiful agricultural fields and practices in Nagoya and Aichi. We should keep them to the future generation.”

---Akihiro Kuriki

Selected References:
Geeraert, N. 2013 When Suppressing One Stereotype Leads to Rebound of Another: On the Procedural Nature of Stereotype
Jussim, R. 2013 Emotional effects on the image and identity of a rural area. Journal of Environmental Psychology. 36:103-111

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Desired Quality of Life

Future Forms of Production
Future Resource Base
Future Desired Quality of Life

Current Resource Base
Current Forms of Production

needed to produce
used to produce
needed to create