Olivia Murphy-Sweet

• 2016 Graduate from The Pennsylvania State University
  • Major in Agricultural Extension and Education
  • Minor in International Agriculture

Who am I?
1,732 miles later and a little help from Penn State...
What is this project?

- A REAL World Application
  - Integrating classroom practices to research objectives

- Examining the NEED for Agriculture Education on a Global Level
  - Connecting Youth to the Community

- Creating University and Outreach Partnerships
  - CELA Belize
  - Mopan Technical High School
  - National 4-H Center of Belize in Belmopan
What is this project?

Conducting research to see:

- Youth’s prior knowledge of agriculture
- Youth’s interests in agriculture
- Feasibility of 4-H program establishment
What were the steps/methodology?

- Interview with current 4-H club leaders and members in Belize
- Interview a minimum of six community leaders in San Jose Succotz
- Conduct a focus group with local youth in San Jose Succotz
- Conduct a focus group with community leaders in San Jose Succotz
- Create a research reflection blog
- Observation of an existing 4-H club meeting of an existing club
I became an investigator...
What I found:

- Lack of a foundation in Agriculture Education in communities that wanted more information
- **Huge support** from the community and teachers to implement a youth program
- Leaders in the community who were **READY** to initiate this program
Example Plan to Initiate 4-H Program

1. **Initiation of Agricultural Youth Program in San Jose Succotz**
   - Target local community leaders and members that have indigenous agriculture knowledge to become leaders.

2. **Invite students from San Jose Succotz and Benque to participate in a agriculture program**
   - Create an Agriculture Summer Workshop to gain interest and support initiative for youth.

3. **Reach out to the Belize National 4H Organization to help in creation of year-long program**
   - Create a curriculum for youth based on their interests in agriculture that is to be used year round.

4. **Utilize local community leaders to participate in selection of curriculum based on need in the community.**
   - Share knowledge with other communities to help initiate their own programs.
Outcome of the research?

- Creation of a logic model showing the impact of the implementation that the 4-H could have on a community

- Creating connections within different demographics on the universal topic of agriculture

- Understanding desired key agricultural topics:
  - Sustainability
  - Food security
  - Nutrition

- Personal growth through reflection
  - Oh So Sweet Mission Blog
What’s next?!

Traveling to Senegal for my 27 Month commitment in the Peace Corps as a Sustainable Agriculture Agent!
Want to connect?

• Contact me through:
  - @OsweetMurph
  - http://ohsosweetmission/blogspot.com
  - Olivia Catherine
  - ocm5019@gmail.com