

## **The Perfect Program & Areas that (Currently) Need Bolstering**

**Respondents were asked what elements would combine to make a perfect Program – and, flowing from this, what benefit their current Program would derive from increased resources (however they chose to define 'resources').**

**Surprisingly, several of the respondents indicated that their current Program fit their vision perfectly – and that even with enhanced resources there would be little change required.**

### **The Perfect Program Would...**

- ...be what we have now! We have it!
- ...diversify current programming with a stronger emphasis on conflict analysis leading to output.
- ...attract a more diverse student body.
- ...have endowed chairs where each chair would be from a different faith perspective - this would create a "built-in dialogue" and context for long term dialogue amongst divergent perspectives.
- ...bring in pairs of students from divergent perspectives to work together side by side...
- ...have built in teaching relief.
- ...include a professional training component.
- ...enhance the clinical side.
- ...increase the number of opportunities for students.
- ...enhance university-wide commitment to the program.
- ...have a lot more faculty committed full time (residentially) to the program.
- ...be housed in an Institute (still within the U structure) – but with operations at a regional level.
- ...include a leadership institute stream
- ...would be a place where students would teach each other.
- ...have both field-based and classroom instruction.
- ...emphasize applied research and analysis (noting currently, people can do the field work - the research component, however, needs to be emphasized).
- ...include *total* interdisciplinarity - where theory, method, research and practice are linked.
- ... connect grad students with practitioners (e.g. lawyers, field operators) where all practitioners would be linked to a research "end", i.e. practice becomes an input to research sector - everything feeds back to grad students.
- ...include sponsoring specialists working internationally in the field as research adjuncts
- ...include practice oriented grad programming

- ... be more connected with NGOs - Would like to see more community connections, especially by academics
- ...have a higher profile in the University as interdisciplinary programs tend to "get lost"
- ...be in its own building designed especially for the kind of programming that it offers – this would include an open design with circular classrooms,
- ...emphasize integrated programming and teaching – weaving interpersonal skills, org system design and international issues - integrating approaches and concepts all the way through.
- ..emphasize the diversity of CR "application" to ensure smooth transition from academic to experiential.

### **The Benefit of Increased Resources:**

- Not many – we have the resources we want!
- With more money, we could develop perfect program!
- Could offer more courses
- Hire more admin staff (this was almost universally noted)
- Greater research efforts to enhance academic credibility of the field. This respondent noted that the purpose of the University environment is research and teaching ("knowledge creation").
- Could take more students.
- Greater financial and physical autonomy from the overarching institutional structure.
- Support travel and faculty on the ground.
- Develop some sort of Centre to coordinate research and programming
- Increase the number of full time faculty – allows for continuity, enhanced interaction, thematic integration. With more faculty (assuming a greater number of students) there would also be less pressure on the grad supervisors. Several programs noted a heavy reliance on part time faculty from across North America and expressed the belief that greater funding would attract more full time faculty.
- Would eliminate space problem – as teaching space is inadequate
- Increased Funding for: guest speakers, visiting scholars, service learning and, where there is *actual* work going on in the community, time to reflect on that work.
- All aspects of programming could benefit.
- "Beef up" admin level – as it is currently "very lean"
- Need for more applied research monies.
- Create Endowed chairs
- Student scholarships
- All aspects of program would benefit from more resources!